

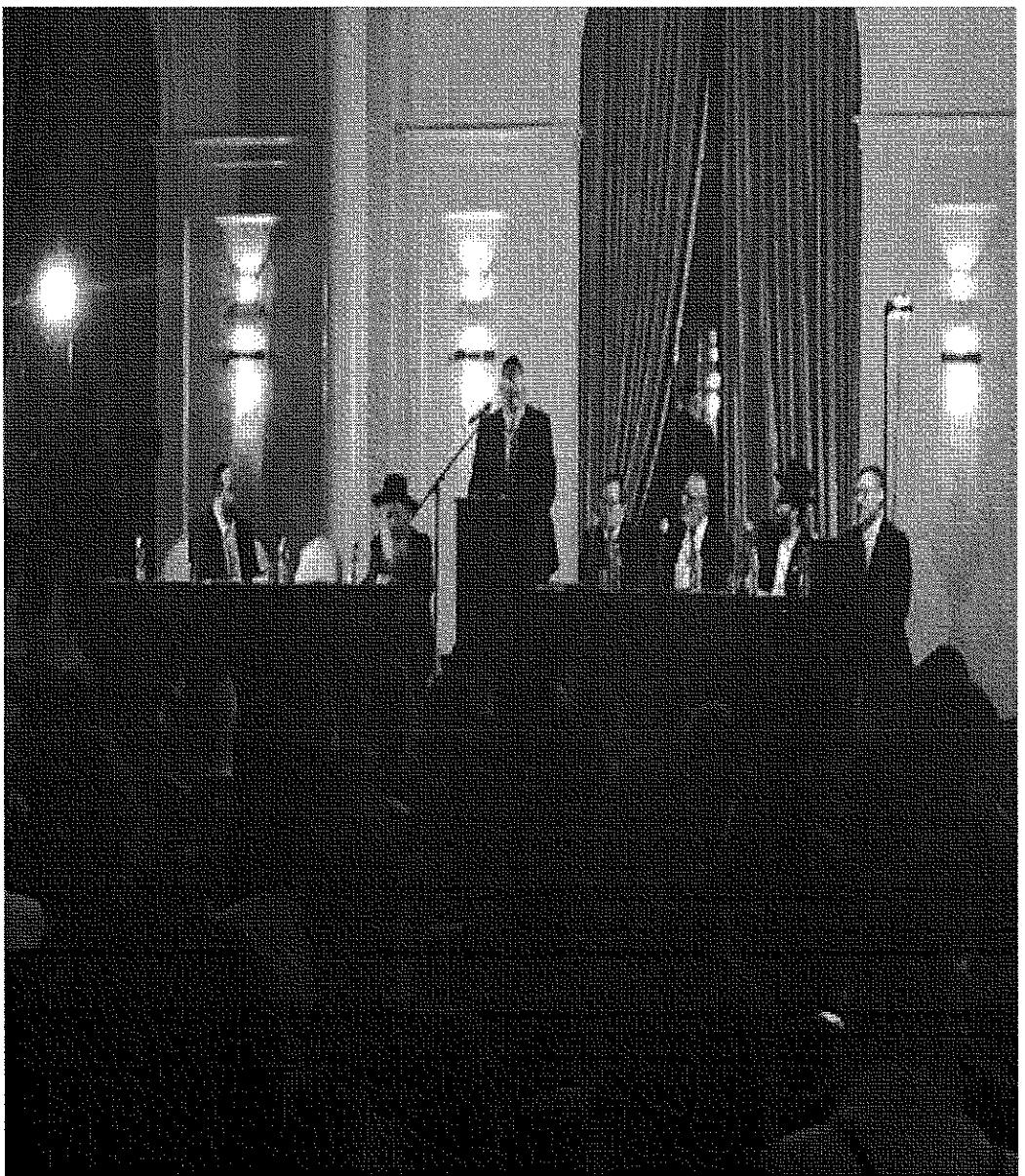


This unprecedented standing-room-only turnout at the symposium, which is the latest step in the extended "Community Conversations Series," underscored how the Lakewood community's grassroots and leadership have joined forces to

promote maximum compliance with the law and an adherence to the principles of ethics at every step. The success of this event was a result of the coordinated efforts of The Lakewood Vaad, Agudath Israel's New Jersey office, the Lakewood Resource and Referral Center (LRRC) and the Lakewood Community Services Corporation (LCSC).

...

Rabbi Avi Schnall, Director of Agudath Israel's New Jersey office, informed the audience that in the weeks ahead there will be additional resources made available to community members to ask questions related to their personal situations. This will include the opportunity for community members to hold brief consultations with noted professionals, who have committed to help the community on a pro bono basis. It was announced that appointment requests for professional consultations can be made via text message, at 732-806-5516; please specify the area of expertise you are looking for.



Rabbi Schnall then moderated the key highlight of the symposium, a panel of professionals that answered various frequently asked questions. The panel consisted of Mr. Harris; Mr. Shea (Abe) Roth CPA, Founder of Roth and

Company; Mr. Waxler CPA; and Mr. Menachem (Mark) Berkowitz, LNHA, COO of CHEMED Health Center.

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Agudath Israel of America, 42 Broadway 14th floor, New York, NY 10004

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House Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

HB 315 ■ **DAY DESIGNATION (Arndt, S.)** To designate October 6 as "S.M.A.R.T. Parent Day." En. 5.257

HB 316 ■ **PICNIC AREA NAMING (Arndt, S., Stein, D.)** To designate a picnic area in Kelleys Island State Park as the "Henry T. Beatty Memorial Picnic Area." Am. 1546.30

HB 317 ■ **TAX DEDUCTION (Young, R.)** To authorize, for six years, a personal income tax deduction for a physician based on the number of hours the physician provides uncompensated medical services through a hospital, free clinic, or nongovernmental medical organization. Am. 5747.01 and to enact section 5747.014

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Finance: Remove Representative Faber

Finance Subcommittee on State Government and Agency Review: Remove Representative Faber.

Public Utilities: Remove Representative Faber; appoint Representative Stein

Aging and Long Term Care: Appoint Representative Brown.

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security: Appoint Representative Brown.

Civil Justice: Remove Representative Sykes; appoint Representative Brown.

State and Local Government: Appoint Representative Brown.

Power Siting Board: Remove Representative Hagan; appoint Representative Carfagna

New African Immigrants Commission: Kefa Otiso and Beatrice Miringu

Ohio Public Works Commission: Dean Ringle

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, August 8

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, ODOT District Three Office, 906 Clark Ave., Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

**Third Frontier Commission, Rev1 Ventures, 1275 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m.
House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, Netzley Room,
Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.**

Event Planner

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit, Boston

**Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) fundraiser,
Mike and Samantha Hartley residence, 403 South Court Street, Circleville, 6 p.m.,
(\$1,000 Chair | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 Host | \$100 Supporter | \$75 per Couple | \$50
Individual to Peterson for Good Government and Troy Balderson for State
Senator)**

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

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Volume #86, Report #151 -- Monday August 7, 2017

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Controlling Board members on Monday approved a new contract for a Columbus law firm to do consulting work on collective bargaining issues after lawmakers asked about the job and procurement process for the contract.

Without objection, the board approved the \$480,000 contract between the Department of Administrative Services and Baker Hostetler, LLP. The firm will provide labor relations and collective bargaining consulting and negotiation services.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) asked if the state was developing the internal capacity to handle labor issues and contracts without having to pay outside help.

Jennifer Leymaster, chief financial officer for DAS, said negotiations for large contracts often require outside assistance.

"It is customary for us to seek outside consulting services when doing the negotiation for these major contracts, as I believe is customary for organizations of our size," she said.

Kristen Rankin, deputy director for the DAS Office of Collective Bargaining, said the work fluctuates year-to-year as different contracts come up for renewal.

She said the state has been working with Baker Hostetler since 2014 and the firm has a good understanding of the state's labor relations.

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked about the increase in the value of the contract this year, up from about \$300,000 last year.

Ms. Rankin said the state is entering negotiations with its largest union this year, meaning there will be more work ahead.

The board also approved several contracts from the treasurer's office after Sen. Tavares asked for the reasoning behind waiving competitive selection.

Deputy Treasurer Seth Metcalf said all of the items were continuations of ongoing projects. In one case, the office did receive another bid, but it was significantly higher than the bid by the existing contractor. That project involves custom-built software designed by the current contractor.

"We suspect that the additional bid was very high because the learning curve for a new provider would have been significant," he said.

The board approved a request for more than \$8.3 million over two years from DAS for a contract for postage funds. Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) asked if other firms, such as Stamps.com, might be able to offer the state better rates.

Ms. Leymaster said firms like Stamps.com might not be able to handle the volume of mail the state sends out, but that DAS would look into it.

The board accepted a transfer of \$2.2 million from the Emergency Management Agency into its emergency fund, repaying the final payment of the money used to reimburse states that sent law enforcement to help at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last year. The EMA said it has received reimbursement from Cleveland for all of the 18 states that assisted.

A request for \$605,961 from the Department of Developmental Disabilities to improve the fire alarm system at Cambridge Developmental Center was deferred.

Other items approved by the board included: (Agenda)

- \$534,000 - Central State University - for a library structural repair and modernization project.
- \$3.2 million - Clark State Community College - for renovation of Rhodes Hall.
- \$2.4 million - Columbus State Community College - for the Culinary and Hospitality School building project.
- \$226,275 - Department of Health - to purchase cystic fibrosis test kits.
- \$374,400 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services - for a contract for forensic psychiatric services at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati.
- \$1.2 million - Department of Developmental Disabilities - to contract with various providers for early intervention hearing services for children.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Natural Resources - for a contract amendment to provide construction administration and material testing at Buckeye Lake Dam.
- \$5.3 million - ODNR - to contract for improvements at a variety of state parks.
- \$749,510 - Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - to replace the roof at the Corrections Training Academy in Orient.
- \$53.6 million - Department of Transportation - for contracts with 52 consulting firms for a variety of services.

- \$212,154 - Bureau of Workers' Compensation - to renew a contract for IT services analyzing business processes.

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

The sponsor of a bill to exempt the seriously mentally ill from the death penalty expects the measure to move in the fall.

The legislation (HB 81) would exempt from the death penalty those diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder or delusional disorder at the time a capital offense was committed.



Bill Seitz

"I'm raring and ready to go as soon as we get back to try and move this forward in the House," sponsoring Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview.

The bill has had three hearings in the House Criminal Justice Committee. Rep. Seitz said he was ready to move the measure prior to lawmakers leaving town for summer vacations, but he was told to hold off.

"We were really ready to go at the end of session back a month ago, but they wanted to keep controversial things off the radar screen as we focused all of our attention on the conference committee process and budget overrides and things like that," he said.

Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) expressed uncertainty about the fate of the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

But Rep. Seitz said he is confident about the bill's prospects in the upper chamber.

"All I can tell Senator Bacon is that when I had the bill the last time in that chamber, there were 31 of 33 senators ready to vote for it. Maybe he hasn't started counting noses yet," he said, adding that the two opponents of the last version of the bill are now serving in the House.

The bill has run into stiff opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Executive Director John Murphy has said that current law already provides those suffering from mental illness with the opportunity to be deemed incompetent to stand trial or mount a not guilty by reason of insanity defense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 6, 2017)

Despite the opposition, Rep. Seitz does not believe the OPAA will be able to sink the bill.

"It's got an awful lot of support and the only people that have come out against it are the prosecutors and their reasoning doesn't satisfy me," he said. "They were opposed to it the last time on the same basis."

Given the state's recent resumption of the death penalty, Rep. Seitz believes the bill will gain even more traction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

"I think with all the recent furor over the resumption of executions in Ohio people ought to at least recognize this for progress in terms of narrowing the range of cases in which the death penalty may be imposed," he said.

The legislation is based off of one of several recommendations made by the Ohio Supreme Court's Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty.

"The bottom line is this was a central recommendation of the death penalty task force," Rep. Seitz said.

Supporters Hope Palliative Care Measure Gains Traction After Recess

Legislation first offered last year and introduced again in June intends to increase awareness and access to palliative care for patients with serious health conditions.

The bill (HB 286), sponsored by Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls), would establish a state council to oversee palliative care and create programs to raise awareness and utilization of the approach.



Rep. LaTourette

It's a personal issue for the sponsor. Her father, former U.S. Rep. Steve LaTourette, received palliative care before his death last year from pancreatic cancer. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

"I saw the dramatic difference that access to early palliative care had on his life and our lives," Rep. LaTourette said in an interview. "I want everybody in the state to be aware that palliative care is not just hospice care."

Rep. LaTourette first introduced the measure (HB603, 131st General Assembly) toward the end of the last General Assembly. It received a hearing before the House Health and Aging Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 26, 2016)

The new version of the bill retains almost all of that proposal's components but does not include provisions that would levy fees or fines on hospitals that don't comply, she said. That has eased some concerns from industry groups, she said.

The move toward expanding the reach of palliative care is a priority for advocacy groups such as the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, who included the practice on their annual report card for state cancer policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

Jeff Stephens, ACS CAN's state government relations director for Ohio, said the group is also working on similar legislation at the federal level.

"It's a form of treatment that's been proven to increase health outcomes at a reduced overall health care cost. It works," he said.

The bill would create an interdisciplinary advisory council at the Department of Health and create a set of criteria to identify patients who are best suited to the care approach.

"We do a pretty OK job of offering it in Ohio but we need to build the pipeline of professionals who are coming into to this treatment and we need to educate patients about what palliative care is," he said.

Mr. Stephens said it's important for providers to consider how different palliative care can look in different parts of the state. While it typically includes the treating doctor, a pharmacist, social workers, spiritual leaders and others who surround the patient with support, that team could look different in rural areas than it would in cities with access to wide varieties of professionals.

"We're all very hopeful there's going to be movement on that this fall," he said.

The proposal hasn't yet been assigned to a committee, but Rep. LaTourette said it will probably go through the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.

"My hope is that shortly after we come back for the fall that we start moving quickly," she said.

Long-Awaited Federal Study To Protect Great Lakes From Asian Carp Released

A long-delayed federal plan to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes was released Monday after months of prodding from congressional delegates in Ohio and other states.

The report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spells out \$275 million in proposals to upgrade the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois in order to shield the lakes from the invasive species.

Ideas in the report include electric barriers, flushing locks, water jets, and complex noise generation. If approved, the project has an estimated completion date of 2025, according to the report. Critics have argued the plan could impede commercial traffic in the region.

The 488-page report was originally slated for release in February, but was delayed by the Trump Administration. Democrats have contended that the decision to delay the report was political in nature. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 1, 2017)

"It is encouraging to see that the U.S. Army Corps' recommendations include serious measures to deal with this invasive species," U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) said in a statement. "Now that we have real information on costs we can move on and receive input from stakeholders, whose livelihoods depend on us keeping the Asian carp out of the Lakes."

Both she and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) earlier this year introduced standalone legislation that would have forced the Trump Administration to make the study public. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 23, 2017)

"We are now one step closer to taking action to protect our Great Lakes from Asian carp," Sen. Brown said, "and I look forward to working with Sen. Portman and my other

Great Lakes colleagues to turn this report into concrete actions that will benefit our Lakes."

The discovery of an Asian carp in June just nine miles from Lake Michigan added new urgency to the matter. It also prompted state officials to enter the fray, with Attorney General Mike DeWine writing late last month to the Department of the Army and saying the delay "in the face of this immediate threat is unacceptable." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2017)

There will now be a 45-day public review period for the draft report, ending Sept. 21. Comments will be accepted online, by letter and at public meetings yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said the lakes and the local economies they support must be protected.

"The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion fishing industry and Lake Erie contributes more than \$10 billion to Ohio's tourism industry, both of which would be jeopardized if Asian Carp were allowed into the Great Lakes," he said. "It is important that the Corps remain on schedule to finalize the plan by January of 2019, and I look forward to working with stakeholders and the Corps to do just that."

Environmental groups praised the release, with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and several other groups issuing a joint statement.

"We look forward to reviewing the findings in detail and to continuing the conversation on this critical issue with elected officials and concerned citizens during the public comment period," the groups said. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must listen carefully to public input on the study and then move quickly from study to implementation of additional protection measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, a logical choke point in the system."

The Ohio Conservation Federation and its counterparts from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin issued a similar joint statement.

"After months of unnecessary delay, we are excited that the potential options for improving defenses against Asian carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam will see the light of day," they said. "There is still much work yet to be done in this process. We look forward to working towards securing stronger protections to keep Asian carp out of our Great Lakes."

Environmental Groups Question Rover Excuses For Fuel In Wetland Spills

The company behind the Rover Pipeline project told federal regulators it believes it's possible traces of diesel fuel found in wetland spills earlier this year were planted by "malicious" opponents.

But environmental groups say the company is attempting to divert attention from Rover's actions and that increased security around the spill sites - by both the company and state regulators who were investigating the spills - renders the idea of sabotage "farfetched."

It's the latest back and forth between Rover Pipeline LLC, its parent Energy Transfer Partners, and advocates urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to halt construction of the 700-mile pipeline that has been at the center of controversy for months.

In its most recent filing (PDF) before FERC, the company for the first time agreed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's assessment that diesel fuel was present in millions of gallons of drilling mud spilled into Ohio wetlands at several sites earlier this year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

But Rover stopped short of accepting the blame, saying it "has no evidence that the diesel was the result of a spill or failed containment" experienced during its horizontal drilling and construction activity.

"This data alone, however, does not demonstrate that diesel fluid (or other petroleum hydrocarbons) entered the slurry as part of the HDD process or that there was a widespread impact," the company wrote.

"Rover theorizes that these diesel concentrations could have been caused by an inadvertent and unreported spill or leak from equipment operating during the clean-up...or it could have been the deliberate or malicious act of individuals opposed to the project," the company continued. "Given the extensive inspection and oversight at this and other sites along the project, it is difficult to imagine that this occurred from an unreported spill or leak."

Cheryl Johncox of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign rejected that claim. She said in an interview that OEPA testing revealed fuel traces at several different sites.

"It's very unlikely somebody trying to sabotage the project would know where those sampling locations were," she said. "The other thing of note is this occurred on private property...(and) they were very actively patrolling that spill site and keeping people off. It's very unlikely somebody was able to access that area in order to sabotage the project."

Heather Taylor-Miesle, executive director of the Ohio Environmental Council, said the company's claims are the latest demonstration of the company's "lack of respect for Ohioans and our environment."

"Claiming they were sabotaged or framed without any evidence whatsoever is merely another attempt for Rover to deflect blame and avoid owning up to the consequences of their actions," she said. "We are taught in kindergarten to clean up after ourselves, and Rover should remember this important childhood lesson."

Regardless of how the fuel entered the slurry, the company said it is "deeply troubled by any of these potential scenarios and has taken steps to address these possible sources."

Those steps include reiterating to employees and contractors that all construction must adhere to the FERC certificate and other spill prevention and response procedures. Additionally, it will remind workers that secondary containment must be used for equipment working in or near wetlands and bodies of water and prompt notification is required for spills of hazardous materials.

In the event an outside agent introduced fuel to the situation, the company said it has increased security to oversee the Tuscarawas site and has "increased scrutiny of all personnel entering and leaving all HDD sites."

The filing comes one week after Kelcy Warren, CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, which is Rover's parent company, told federal lawmakers he was "baffled" by criticism of the company and allegations of rule violations from regulators and congressional Democrats following the spills.

Tavares Bill Aimed At Gender Pay Gap; Schiavoni Targets Charter Overpayments; Renacci, Pillich Announce Endorsements...

Equal pay and charter school funding are the subjects of hot-button measures recently introduced by two Democratic lawmakers.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) is behind legislation (SB 174) she dubbed the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required Act."

"It is shameful that in this day and age women in Ohio make only 78 cents for every dollar made by a man. Without question, equal work deserves equal pay," she said in a release announcing the bill. "At a time when women are increasingly responsible for the economic security of their families, it is absolutely critical to ensure that they earn a wage commensurate with their work - and on par with a man's."

The bill would require employers to substantiate pay differences, prohibit retaliation against workers who discuss salaries with colleagues and bar wage discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"While the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 improved some laws that govern pay discrimination, more must be done to close the wage gap and increase the economic security of women," Sen. Tavares said. "Fair pay would help close the wage gap and increase women's economic security."

Charter Overpayments: A gubernatorial candidate meanwhile is touting a measure to require all money recovered from overpayments to charter schools to be returned to district from which it was deducted. It comes on the heels of the state's plans to claw back funding from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow over inflated enrollment data.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said his legislation is expected to be introduced this week.

"Ohio schools are struggling to manage after several years of cuts to their funding. It's only right that the state should return all money taken from these schools in error," he said. "This bill is simple: it creates a uniform rule that all money overpaid to charter schools is sent back to the affected school districts."

Endorsements Announced: Other gubernatorial candidates continue to rack up endorsements.

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) announced the backing of Julie Prince in his bid to replace Gov. John Kasich. She directed Ohio operations and grassroots for Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign.

"In the 2018 gubernatorial race, there is one clear choice for conservatives across Ohio, and that choice is Jim Renacci. Time and again Jim has demonstrated his unyielding commitment to the conservative reforms we need, but which entrenched Columbus insiders have failed to deliver," she said. "Jim is not afraid to take on the establishment or the career politicians who continue to pay lip service to conservatism while perpetuating the status quo."

Added Rep. Renacci: "In her position as the Grassroots and Operations Director for Ted Cruz's presidential campaign in Ohio, Julie played an instrumental role in advancing the causes of conservatism and liberty - not just for our state, but for our nation as a whole. I am proud to serve as a voice for conservatives across Ohio in this critically important election, and I am committed to delivering the conservative agenda and reforms we so badly need as our state's next governor."

Meanwhile, former Rep. Connie Pillich announced that she has the support of the Cincinnati Building Trades in her Democratic primary contest.

"Connie Pillich is the proven fighter we need as our next governor. Born in the shadow of a steel mill, Connie knows what we face every day," Cincinnati Building Trades Executive Secretary Fred Lampe said. "She has an unrivaled record of standing up for working families, higher wages, and working to create good jobs. Connie has proven herself as the Democratic frontrunner in the race for governor and the Cincinnati Building Trades is proud to have her back."

Added Ms. Pillich: "I'm proud to be endorsed by the Cincinnati Building Trades because I'll never stop fighting for working families, good jobs, and better wages for workers. With the wind at our backs, our people-powered campaign is building more momentum everyday as we work to take Columbus back from the special interests."

Husted Appointment: Secretary of State Jon Husted announced the appointment of Marcella R. Bogenrife to the Madison County Board of Elections.

She was recommended for the post by the Madison County Republican Party Executive Committee.

Casino, Racino Revenue Up Big In July

The state's four casinos showed significant gains in revenue last month compared to June, and the racinos also saw a big uptick in what they took home.

The casinos brought in \$69.9 million in July, up from \$64.1 million the prior month and from \$66.1 million in July 2016, according to revenue reports released Monday by the Casino Control Commission.

Video lottery terminal revenue at the seven racinos totaled \$84.5 million for the first month of the fiscal year, up nearly \$6.5 million from where it was in June, the Ohio Lottery Commission reported.

Hollywood Columbus brought in the most money among casinos at \$18.9 million. That was up from \$17.7 million in June and just a bit above the \$18.6 million it brought in the previous July. The casino was highly dependent on slot machine revenue, with that accounting for \$13.5 million.

Hollywood Toledo also saw a big boost, rising to \$17.6 million from \$16.1 million the prior month. It was up more than \$1 million from \$16.5 million in July 2016. Like its sister casino in Columbus, the Toledo location leaned heavily on slot machines, to the tune of \$14.8 million.

JACK Cleveland raked in \$16.9 million, up from \$15 million in June and \$15.5 million the previous July. The casino was the most balanced between slots and table games, with slots accounting for \$9.1 million and table games \$7.7 million.

JACK Cincinnati brought in \$16.7 million, up from \$15.4 million both in June and in July 2016. Slot machines accounted for \$10.7 million of the casino's take.

Racinos: Among the state's racinos, Hard Rock Rocksino-Northfield Park saw the largest gain from June to July, up \$2.7 million to \$22.3 million in revenue from VLT machines.

Scioto Downs was the second-biggest gainer, up \$1.25 million to \$14.25 million in July.

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway was up \$643,130 to \$8.3 million, while JACK Thistledown was up \$605,814 to \$10.1 million.

Belterra Park's revenue was up \$529,680 over June's at \$7.4 million. Revenue at Miami Valley Gaming was up \$428,657 to \$12.4 million, and Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley Race Course gained \$300,155 to \$9.8 million.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, August 9

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 West Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, August 21

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)

Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)

Wednesday, October 11

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Senate Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB 175 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (Schiavoni, J.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

SB 176 ■ **MUNICIPAL TAXES** (Jordan, K.) To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident. Am. 709.023, 718.01, 718.02, 718.03, 718.04, 718.05, and 718.16 and to repeal sections 718.011 and 718.50

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation: Appoint Senator Joe Uecker and Senator Sean O'Brien

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

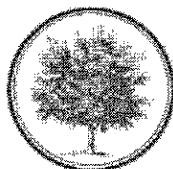
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2017

As Senate Prepares to Take-Up Veto Overrides, Buckeye Experts Weigh-In

Columbus, OH - As the Ohio Senate prepares to return to Columbus to vote on overriding some of Governor John Kasich's vetoes in the state's biennial budget, **The Buckeye Institute**'s experts weighed-in on three critical areas.

In July, the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto of the Healthy Ohio waiver. This override puts back into place the requirement that the Administration submit the waiver request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"With the federal government expressing a desire to partner with states on Medicaid reform, Ohio should seek a bold waiver to improve the Medicaid program," said Rea

S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in health care policy. "The Healthy Ohio waiver can empower Medicaid recipients to obtain better care, return to work, and ensure that needy Medicaid enrollees have access to good medical services."

Hederman continued, "Medicaid continues to grow rapidly and is, by far, the largest budget item when looking at total dollars spent. By overriding the veto and submitting a Medicaid waiver to DC, the General Assembly is taking a prudent step to protect taxpayers and ensure that Medicaid benefits will be available to those who need them."

The Ohio House also overrode the governor's veto of a measure which restored legislative oversight to approving Medicaid spending increases rather than limiting approval to the Controlling Board.

"By overriding the veto, the General Assembly will restore balance to the relationship between the legislative and executive branch," said Hederman. "With this action, the General Assembly limits the ability of the executive branch to appropriate huge sums of money with limited legislative oversight. Further, it makes sure the full General Assembly, not six legislators and a gubernatorial appointee, are responsible for approving big new federal programs and all the strings that are inevitably attached."

Unfortunately, the House overrode the governor's veto of the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan and Buckeye hopes that the Senate will let Governor Kasich's veto stand.

"We agree with Governor Kasich's veto of the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues and we were disappointed that the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "This proposal is a tax on insurance plans and as with most government taxes, it is highly unlikely that this new tax will be 'temporary.' It is time for local governments to go to their voters and convince them of the need to raise local taxes for local services rather than blaming Columbus for their inability to spend wisely."

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OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

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Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

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OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

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Day Planner

Event Planner

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Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

Thursday, August 24

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser, London Country Club, 1199 Spring Valley Rd., London, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Ace Sponsor, \$700 Eagle Sponsor, \$500 Cart Sponsorship, \$250 Hole Sponsorship, \$150 Cart Sponsorship, \$100 Tee Sponsorship, \$85 Individual to Hackett for Ohio)

Hamilton County GOP State Legislators golf outing fundraiser, Glenview Golf Course, 10965 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, 10 a.m., (\$1500 Sponsor; \$300 Hole Sponsor; \$175 Golfer)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Monday, August 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Moundbuilders Country Club, 125 N. 33rd Street, Newark, 10 a.m., (10:00am Registration; 11:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Food and Beverage Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Green Sponsor: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, August 30

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Condados Downtown, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$500 or Suggested Donation: \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Thursday, August 31

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Citizens for Bill Beagle and Peterson for Good Government)

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Willoway Nursery, 4535 Center Rd. (Route 83), Avon, 5:30 p.m., (\$500 Lilac Sponsor - includes 6 tickets; \$400 Hydrangea Sponsor - includes 4 tickets; \$200 Rose Sponsor - includes 2 tickets; \$125 per Couple | \$75 per Person to Committee to Elect Manning)

Sunday, September 10

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) Pig Roast Clam Bake fundraiser, Heidelberg Distributing Company, 9101 E. Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Couple: \$140; Individual: \$75; Dozen Extra Clams: \$15 to Friends of Marlene B. Anielski)

Tuesday, September 12

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Martins Ferry High School, 5000 Ayers Limestone Rd., Martins Ferry

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Gold Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Plank's Cafeteria, 743 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Platinum Level - \$2,500; Gold Level - \$1,500; Silver Level - \$1,000; Bronze - \$500 or \$350 per person to Committee for Jim Hughes)

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)

Thursday, September 14

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Pro Football Hall of Fame, 2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) golf outing fundraiser, Kirtland Country Club, 39438 Kirtland Road, Willoughby, 10 a.m., (10:00am Brunch, 11:00am Golf. Friends of John Eklund)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) fundraiser, Cheney residence, 6988 Greensward Road, New Albany, 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 per Attendee to Citizens for Kevin Bacon)

Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)

Monday, September 18

Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Country Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, (The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, September 19

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Tavia Galonski)

Wednesday, September 20

**Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) and Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Brian D. Hill for State Representative and/or Friends for Allen Landis)
Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) and Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Andy Thompson for State Representative and/or Friends of Wes Goodman)**

Thursday, September 21

Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser, Basil's on Market, 312 N Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, 5:30 p.m., (\$5,000 Event Chair | \$2,500 Event Co-Chair | \$1,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Individual to RSCC)

Monday, September 25

**Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 16405 U.S. Highway 23, Ashville, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch; 12:00pm Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,500; Green Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Hole Sponsor: \$100 to Friends of Gary Scherer)
Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) golf outing fundraiser, Firestone Country Club, 452 East Warner Road, Akron, 11:30 a.m., (Lunch & Range Time 11:30am. Tee times starting at 1:05pm. \$300 Lunch Only | \$1,000 Lunch and Golf to LaRose for Ohio)**

Thursday, September 28

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun and pig roast fundraiser, Hill'n Dale Club, 3605 Poe Road, Medina, 2 p.m., (2:30-3:00pm - Sign in/Registration/ Meet and greet with Senator Obhof in the Hill'n Dale Lodge; 3:00 pm - Clay Shooting: 5-Stand with Group or Optional Course on your Own. 5:00-6:00pm - Dinner. \$500 Distinguished Expert/Station Sponsor: \$250 Sharp Shooter: \$150 First Class: \$100 Marksman: \$75 Sponsor to Citizens for Obhof)

Friday, September 29

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser, Belterra, 6301 Kellogg Rd., Cincinnati, 12:30 p.m., (11:30am Park Opens | 12:30pm Lunch | 1:45pm Live Racing Begins. \$1500 Triple Crown | \$1,000 Champion | \$750 Winner's Circle | \$500 Thoroughbred | \$250 Jockey Club | \$100 per Attendee The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sunday, October 1

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (Please make checks payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
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Volume #86, Report #160 – Friday, August 18, 2017

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

With the biennial budget, veto overrides notwithstanding, in the rearview mirror, Senate President Larry Obhof hopes his chamber will work on legislation designed to make life easier for businesses.

One way the Medina Republican plans to do that is not by adding new laws, but by removing or simplifying old ones.

"We'll focus on getting government red tape and regulation out of the way and hopefully continue to build our economy and build off the improvements we've made the last few years," Sen. Obhof said this week.



Sen. Obhof

One of the priorities for the Senate Republicans leader includes finding bits of regulation that are burdensome for business and aren't working the way they're supposed to. He said he wanted each member of his caucus to find examples of failing regulation and work to fix them, whether by eliminating language or streamlining it.

"We talk a lot on the campaign trail, both parties do, about getting red tape and regulations out of the way," he said. "When you get to work, people start to pass new laws and regulations."

"We ought to all go out and find one example of something that's not working right and get rid of it," he continued. "They don't have to be big things, necessarily, but the more

things like that that we do, you're slowly but surely making it easier for some small business owners."

Even if the change doesn't affect every Ohioan, he said, it could be significant for the few it does affect.

"I think we're going to be pretty serious this fall about trying to get rid of parts of the Ohio Revised Code, scale them back, make them easier to understand, easier to read, removing some of the hurdles government has put in the way of our job creators," he said.

Other priorities for the fall include economic development, the opioid crisis and workforce development, he said.

The Senate will be in session Tuesday, with the agenda expected to focus heavily on budget veto overrides. More override votes are possible in September, Sen. Obhof said.

The chamber will also see some committee action Tuesday, including the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, which will hear a bill (SB 164) to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

On the House side, the post-budget plan is still in the works, said Brad Miller, a spokesman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville).

"Legislative priorities for the fall are still under consideration and will be the product of conversations and input between the Speaker and members of the caucus," Mr. Miller said in an email.

Some of the House's work could stem from the speaker's task forces, some of which have begun their work, including one on education and poverty (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 17, 2017) and another on Alzheimer's and dementia (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017).

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

The state's highest court will hear two high-profile abortion cases in September, including one that has triggered calls for a justice's recusal.

Both cases stem from abortion-related provisions in the 2014-15 state budget (HB59 130th General Assembly).

The first case, set to be heard on Sept. 12, was brought to the high court by the Department of Health, which has defended the constitutionality of restrictions imposed on a Toledo abortion clinic. (Docket)

The case is the result of a 2014 department decision to shutter the city's last abortion clinic, Capital Care Network of Toledo, after it determined a patient transfer agreement it had inked with an Ann Arbor hospital ran afoul of state law because the facility was not "local."

However, both the Lucas County Common Pleas Court and the Sixth District Court of Appeals sided with the clinic, which has remained open.

ODH argues that the decision to shutter the clinic was lawful, the one-subject rule was not violated by placing the requirement in the budget, the clinic did not raise an "undue burden" challenge and the ambulatory requirement is constitutional.

The "undue burden" standard, which was used by the lower courts to strike down the requirement, was created by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

However, ODH argues that the high court should not view the case through that lens because the clinic did not raise the issue.

"The court should vacate the undue burden holding and set the issue aside, as the clinic never raised such a challenge. And as part of not raising it as a legal issue, the clinic also never presented any factual evidence to meet its burden to overcome the law," ODH wrote in a court filing.

"Vacating the holding still allows this clinic or any other abortion clinic to raise an undue burden challenge in a separate case, and indeed, at least two clinics are doing so in a federal case."

Among the clinic's arguments are that the 2013 budget violated the single-subject rule, that the provision amounts to an undue burden and that it is unconstitutional.

"The three transfer agreement provisions were introduced late in the legislative process as riders to the budget bill with little or no opportunity for public debate. At the end of the state budget process Ohio legislators buried controversial anti-abortion provisions in the several thousand pages of a budget bill that was sure to pass," the brief reads.

"The written transfer agreement provisions, which are inherently controversial and of significant constitutional import, were not debated and approved during a fair and open legislative process. HB59 frustrates the single-subject rule's purpose of preventing logrolling and ensuring 'a more orderly and fair legislative process.'"

The case already stirred controversy after Justice Sharon Kennedy spoke at a Greater Toledo Right to Life event in March. That led NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio to unsuccessfully call on her to recuse herself in the case.

This week, Capital Care attorney Jennifer Branch made an official request for Justice Kennedy's recusal in a filing with the court.

"Since this court accepted jurisdiction in this case, Justice Kennedy's impartiality in deciding this case involving an abortion provider has been reasonably questioned by various Ohioans due to her connections to anti-abortion and pro-life organizations," the attorney wrote.

ProgressOhio also filed an ethics complaint against Justice Kennedy that was recently dismissed.

The second case, slated for oral arguments on Sept. 26, was also brought forward by the state after two lower courts found a Cleveland-based clinic had standing to sue over several abortion-related provisions in the budget bill. (Docket)

Along with the transfer agreement provision, Preterm-Cleveland has also taken issue with a ban on public hospitals from entering into those agreements and a requirement that doctors inform pregnant women about a detectable heartbeat.

"Preterm's change of conduct to avoid running afoul of these new requirements constitutes injury-in-fact for standing purposes, traceable to the enactment of HB59," its brief reads. "Its requested relief - an order declaring that HB59 violates the one-subject rule and severing and enjoining the provisions it has shown create disunity - will redress Preterm's injury and cure the identified constitutional defect."

The state, however, argues that the abortion clinic does not have standing to sue because it has not been able to demonstrate that it has been injured by the budget provisions.

"Ohio's Constitution allows courts to hear only justiciable controversies involving parties with standing, so relaxing the rules is unconstitutional. Applying the rules here is straightforward: Preterm must show standing as to each provision it challenges, and it fails on all counts," the state's brief reads.

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Most students heading back to school over the next few weeks won't be reporting to first period any later than in past years, despite district attempts to accommodate research that shows later start times can be beneficial to student health.

Various districts throughout the state report studying later start times in the last few years, but a recent accounting of states where schools have made changes doesn't include Ohio.

Schools in at least 19 states delayed starting bell times for the new academic year, according to a Start School Later report. They include a handful of schools in the surrounding states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

"Every year we see more and more schools delaying bell times to improve student sleep, health, and learning," Start School Later Executive Director Terra Ziporyn Snider

said. "Not all of them will be starting middle and high schools at 8:30 or later, as health professionals recommend, but they are moving to schedules that are healthier and safer for many more students."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, National PTA, American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses are among the groups backing later start times.

Although Ohio doesn't keep track of when districts are starting the day, Start School Later has determined that about 7:30 a.m. is the most common time for middle and high school students to head to first period. The national average is 7:59 a.m., according to the CDC.

Those times conflict with research that shows students, particularly teens, get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Stacy Simera, a spokeswoman for Start School Later, said students who lack sleep are more likely to be obese, have trouble focusing in school, suffer sports injuries, be involved in car accidents, and become addicted to drugs, among other issues.

The connection between additional sleep for teens and improved health and academic outcomes has caught the attention of district leaders, but resulting changes to bell schedules in Ohio have been few and far between. Districts often point to increased costs as the reason for maintaining the status quo.

Olentangy Local School District, which is the seventh largest district the state, is among those that studied the possibility of later start times over the last few years, but chose not to move forward with them. It announced over the summer that changes would require purchasing an additional 141 school buses at a cost of \$12.5 million and adding \$7.8 million in annual operating costs.

Like others who've looked into making moves, the district also determined that parents of elementary students don't support earlier start times for their students so that later middle and high school times can be accommodated.

Bus schedules and concerns about child care "are two of the principal challenges in terms of trying to move the start times," said Tom Ash, director of governmental relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

"You have districts that, in order to economize (busing), have what are known as double, triple and even quadruple runs, so they might even be serving two, three or four schools with kids of different ages," he said. "So that becomes an issue."

Mr. Ash said districts aren't dismissing the research on earlier start times, they're just simply running into roadblocks to implement them.

There are districts that have modified start times without increased costs, though, Ms. Simera contended. If there are costs, she said that they shouldn't be a deal breaker.

"Not only can every school afford healthy start times, schools can no longer afford not to. As an Ohio taxpayer and mental health clinician, it concerns me that we are ignoring such low-hanging fruit in fighting two Ohio-specific epidemics: obesity and substance abuse - both of which are correlated with chronic deficient sleep," she said.

"While we know there are many factors involved in obesity and substance abuse, we should certainly address one of the known factors that we can greatly influence - namely healthy sleep."

According to Start School Later, districts that have pushed back start times without incurring additional costs include Hudson, Dublin, Kenston, and Perrysburg schools. Westlake and Parma schools also pushed back start times when they eliminated busing for high school students.

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

The biggest increases occurred in leisure and hospitality (+5,200), local government (+3,900) and financial activities (+1,200) sectors. July's biggest losses were in goods-producing industries (-2,700) and business services (-2,400).

Over the last 12 months, Ohio added 47,500 jobs, led by private service providers (37,700) and construction (5,900), ODJFS reported. The larger drops occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,900) and durable goods manufacturing (-1,800).

Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at the Buckeye Institute, said that along with the labor market dip, Ohioans stopped looking for work as labor force participation fell to national levels at 62.9%.

"In addition, private sector job opportunities continued the stream of bad news, with 2,500 fewer private sector jobs in July compared to June," he said.

"Overall, the Ohio July jobs report is a sober one," Mr. Hederman said. "While one month of data can be a statistical anomaly, policymakers should begin considering measures to increase economic opportunities in Ohio's private sector."

Policy Matters Ohio observed that without the growth in public sector jobs, the state would have lost positions last month. The group reiterated its criticisms of GOP tax policies in recent years.

"State tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthy have not produced the promised job growth. Instead, we have lost the revenue we need to invest in policies like need-based college financial aid that help build the middle class," PMO researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Federal policymakers would be well-served by studying Ohio's

performance before implementing tax changes that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest in the nation."

Roechner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

Rep. Kristina Roechner announced her intent to run for the Senate seat currently occupied by term-limited Sen. Frank LaRose.

The Hudson Republican, who is term limited in the House, said her goals if elected to the Senate would be much the same as her priorities in her current seat representing the 37th House District.

"It would absolutely be the same as it's been in the House," she said. "Continue to help set a stage that's inviting to businesses in Ohio and that includes regulatory reform which I've done a lot of in individual industries."

Making the tax climate more competitive with other states by lowering taxes and strengthening the education system would also be priorities, the representative said. So too would be legislation like her pending cosmetology bill (HB 189) which she said would "make it easier and smoother for people to get jobs and not jump through so many hurdles in government."

"I'm going to continue the work we've started and continue that onto the Senate," she said. "I want to make sure government doesn't waste taxpayer dollars. If we can spend taxpayer dollars smarter and get more for it that's what we need to do."

The 27th Senate District encompasses all of Wayne County and parts of Summit and Stark. Other incumbent House members whose districts align with that district include term-limited Rep. Marilyn Slaby and freshman Rep. Scott Wiggam.

Rep. Roechner reported receiving \$78,000 since January in her recent semiannual report, leaving her with about \$78,700 in cash on hand.

Veto Overrides: The Buckeye Institute is weighing in on several outstanding budget veto overrides the Senate may take up next week.

Senators are expected to return Tuesday to consider some of the 11 overrides the House approved in July. How many overrides and which specifically the chamber will choose to take up isn't clear. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 16, 2017)

Among overrides the Institute is urging senators to approve are the governor's vetoes of the Healthy Ohio waiver and of language creating legislative oversight of Medicaid spending increases.

But the group is asking senators to let stand the governor's veto on the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"We agree with Gov. Kasich's veto of the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues and we were disappointed that the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto," said Greg Lawson, an institute research fellow. "This proposal is a tax on insurance plans and as with most government taxes, it is highly unlikely that this new tax will be 'temporary.' It is time for local governments to go to their voters and convince them of the need to raise local taxes for local services rather than blaming Columbus for their inability to spend wisely."

Issue 2: Proponents of the controversial Issue 2 - also known as the "Drug Price Relief Act" - praised ballot language approved by the Ballot Board Thursday.

Yes on Issue 2 and its counterpart, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, negotiated compromise ballot language that the board then signed off on with little discussion.(See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 17, 2017)

Both sides said the language presented an accurate description of the November ballot issue, which would prohibit the state from purchasing prescription drugs for prices beyond what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays.

"Voters in Ohio are well-informed, smart and angry at the greedy drug companies that have been price-gouging the sick and suffering, and putting profits before patients," said Dennis Willard, a spokesman for the proponents. "The language is simple and straightforward just like our plan to lower drug prices for 4 million Ohioans and save taxpayers \$400 million a year."

Opponents claim the statute, if adopted by voters, would actually drive the cost of drugs higher.

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Harmful algal blooms in Ohio have cost homeowners \$152 million in lost property value over the last six years, according to researchers.

That figure comes from a new Ohio State University study that examined the financial impacts of blooms in Buckeye Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys. A second study quantified the financial impact of blooms to sport fishing revenue generated by Lake Erie.

OSU bills the reports, published respectively in *Ecological Economics* and the *Journal of Environmental Management* as the first of their kind to put a dollar figure on the impact of algae. Researchers said they hope the studies will equip lawmakers with new information to create adequate algae prevention and cleanup resources.

"Our biggest takeaway is that efforts to prevent and mitigate algal blooms have real, tangible benefits for Ohioans, including property values," said Allen Klaiber, associate professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at OSU.

The first study examines property values in the two interior lakes, finding that total values fell \$152 million from 2009-2015. Sales prices for homes within one-third of a mile from the lake fell 11-17% while adjacent homes saw prices dropping more than 22%, the report found.

In Buckeye Lake the drop was more severe, with the loss of \$101 million in home sales over six years. Grand Lake St. Marys saw a \$51 million loss.

Regarding Lake Erie, which fuels a \$1.7 billion tourism industry, simulations showed a "moderate" bloom would result in a 10-13% decrease in fishing license sales within 12 miles of the lake.

A severe bloom, akin to what occurred in 2011, would lead to 3,600 fewer licenses sold and as much as \$5.6 million in lost revenue in a single summer, the researchers determined.

Governor Appointment Reaction: The Ohio Environmental Council praised Gov. John Kasich's recent appointment of Sarah Spence to the Public Benefits Advisory Board. Ms. Spence is OEC's director of government affairs and was appointed this week.

"The board works with the director of the development services agency to ensure energy services are provided to low-income consumers in Ohio in an affordable manner," said Aryeh Alex, the OEC's vice president of public affairs. "Sarah is the right person for the job, and will add a strong environmental voice to the governor's administration."

Rover: A cease-and-desist order from the government of West Virginia was recently lifted, clearing the Rover Pipeline project to continue. That's over the objections of environmental groups who argue the project is harming the environment.

Meanwhile, a new *Bloomberg* analysis determined that the Rover project has set a new record for environmental violations. The publication determined the project, since its approval in February, has racked up more violations than any other major interstate natural gas pipeline built in the last two years.

Rover filings showed 104 negative inspection reports, according to *Bloomberg*. The next closest was the Williams' Virginia Southside Expansion which reported 26 violations.

To be fair, the 710-mile Rover is a longer pipeline than other projects included in the analysis. Still, the next longest - the 515-mile Enbridge Sabal Trail - reported 18 violations.

Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the project, said it is working with regulatory agencies at all levels to meet safety and environmental regulations. But

friction continues between the company, opponents and regulatory agencies in Ohio and beyond. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Business and military leaders are calling on state leaders to focus on early childhood education to ensure students are better prepared to enter the future workforce.

They joined Council for Strong America this week to release a new report highlighting the correlation between high-quality Pre-K and STEM skills.

The analysis also details projections for STEM workforce growth - an area that military and tech business stakeholders said during a Dayton press conference is a major concern. Health and computer technology industries are expected to grow by as much as 37% nationwide in the coming years, they said.

Currently, 65% of eighth graders aren't proficient in math and 60% aren't proficient in science, the report shows. About one-third of college students, meanwhile, require remediation in math or English.

"As a result, employers - both in the private sector and the military - are struggling to find the STEM skilled workforce they need," the authors of the report wrote. "That is why business and military leaders in Ohio are calling on policymakers to invest more in high-quality early education where STEM skills take root."

According to the report, research shows that individuals with early exposure to math have improved abilities in the subject area later on and that early learning supports cognitive abilities as well as social and emotional skills that are beneficial in STEM career fields.

"The young people we will seek to recruit for the military, postsecondary education, and private sector jobs in less than 15 years should be entering pre-K today," former Adjutant General Deborah Ashenhurst said in a statement. "A greater investment in high-quality pre-K will have lasting impact for our children, for Ohio, and for our nation."

GI Bill: The president this week signed bipartisan legislation to expand education opportunities to post-9/11 veterans and restore GI Bill benefits to those who attended now-defunct technical colleges.

The bill removes a 15-year time limit on the benefits, allowing veterans and their dependents to use them for life. Among other things, it also extends eligibility for reservists, provides full benefits for Purple Heart recipients and increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), who helped draft the measure, applauded its enactment.

In particular, he pushed for provisions that restore benefits to veterans who attended shuttered career technical colleges and alert veterans to schools offering priority enrollment

"Ohio veterans deserve better than to have the rug pulled out from under them by for-profit colleges," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "This bill is an important step towards rectifying the fraudulent practices of these schools and restoring and expanding the GI benefits our veterans have earned."

The measure also expands eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon Program to spouses and children of service members who died in combat. The program that helps students avoid out-of-pocket college costs above their GI Bill benefits is currently available only to veterans and spouses and children of service members.

Insurance: An insurance checklist for college students and their parents is now available from the Department of Insurance.

The checklist details insurance options for illness and injury, dental and eye care, personal protections and liability, renters and vehicles.

"Life away from home is a great opportunity for young adults to learn and grow, but it also presents considerations and challenges," ODI Director Jillian Froment said. "It is important that students and parents conduct an insurance review and consider including an insurance agent in the process."

Survey: The Ohio Department of Education is seeking input on proposed updates to Ohio's model curriculum for English and math in grades K-12. An online survey will be open through Sept. 13.

The model curriculum, which is set to go before the State Board of Education for approval this fall, will serve as a guide for teachers to help them better understand the knowledge and skills required under Ohio's Learning Standards - the basis for state tests.

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

The state's Medical Marijuana Control Program is seeking a contractor for a system to monitor video surveillance at growers, processors and dispensaries.

The Department of Commerce issued the request for proposals this week as the program's rules, which cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review at the end of July, were officially filed.

The rules go into effect Sept. 8. They cleared JCARR after a nearly yearlong development process that began following the program's enabling legislation, which went into effect last fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 31, 2017)

The RFP for the video management system requires one that can accept feeds from any camera operator and allow the state to see inside facilities at any time.

"Given an initial camera population of over 1,000 cameras across an Ohio medical marijuana entity facility population of 100+ facilities, the State requires an efficient means of monitoring camera operational status as well as an efficient path for identifying a particular camera at a particular facility for real-time camera viewing," the state said in its description.

Attorney General: Mike DeWine and attorneys general from 49 other states and territories urged Congress to amend the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to clarify that states and local governments can investigate and prosecute facilitators of child sex trafficking wherever they operate, including online.

"The proposed amended language to the Communications Decency Act will help to ensure that citizens and children are effectively protected throughout the entire country, in all courts," Attorney General DeWine said in a statement. "The intention of the Communications Decency Act is to protect children from indecent material online. It was never intended to place facilitators of child sex trafficking outside the reach of law enforcement."

Courts have interpreted the current language to allow only federal authorities to take action against companies that facilitate sex trafficking. The AGs urged in their letter for the law to be clarified.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced that all filings required to start or maintain a business in Ohio can now be submitted online. Owners can also submit all Uniform Commercial Code statements and certified search requests through the web, he said.

"Since day one, our office has committed itself to working on behalf of job creators and entrepreneurs to make it easier to start and maintain a business in Ohio," Secretary Husted said in a statement. "By improving the way our office does business, we are helping companies cut costs, save time, and reduce administrative burden so they can focus on providing quality services and products, as well as create jobs."

The secretary's office also announced that 8,800 new entities filed to do business in the state in July, up 1,279 compared to the previous July. A total of 71,979 entities have filed in Ohio this year.

Ohio EPA: The agency will hold a public hearing next week to receive comments on proposed water quality standards, including standards covering pesticides, dredged material and E. coli.

The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, in the Ohio EPA Conference Center at 50 West Town Street in Columbus.

Written comments can be sent to Rules Coordinator, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or emailed to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov, through Aug. 23.

Workers' Compensation: The bureau announced that seven employers and injured workers who attempted to defraud the agency were convicted in July. The BWC's special investigations department has totaled 90 convictions so far this year.

"Workers' compensation fraud raises the cost of the system for everyone involved," said SID Director Jim Wernecke. "I hope these latest convictions serve as a reminder to those attempting to steal from BWC: We have investigators all over the state. We will find you, bring you to justice and make you repay the funds you illicitly acquired."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: The department said it is conducting a needs assessment with treatment providers as part of activities connected to the federal 21st Century CURES Act. The department is collecting information on what providers are doing and what needs they have for treating people with opioid-related disorders.

The assessment runs through Sept. 8. Providers who did not receive invitations can contact Laura Potts at laura.potts@mha.ohio.gov.

Natural Resources: The department announced it will hold special deer hunts at six state nature preserves across the state. Drawings will be held for the hunts, and entries cost \$5.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio University Board of Trustees: Stephen P. Casciani of Delaware (Delaware Co.) for a term beginning Aug. 18 and ending May 13, 2026.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, August 22

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. (The Investment Committee will meet 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.; the Actuarial Committee 10:30 a.m. to noon; the Medical Services & Safety Committee 1 to 2 p.m.; the Governance Committee 2 to 2:30 p.m.; and the Audit Committee 2:30 to 4 p.m. The Actuarial, Governance and Audit Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

Friday, August 25

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Monday, August 28

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro,
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Suite 1500, 50 W. Broad
St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin
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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, August 19-Monday, August 21

Legislative Committees

Monday, June 4

Canceled: Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review-(Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, August 21

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

17 S. High St. Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
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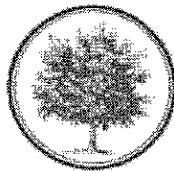
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 22, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-in on Senate Veto Overrides

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's experts commented on actions taken by the Ohio Senate regarding Governor John Kasich's vetoes in the state's biennial budget.

Medicaid Managed Care Sales Tax Replacement Plan

"We are pleased that the Ohio Senate did not override Governor Kasich's veto of the Medicaid managed care organization sales tax replacement plan and we hope it is not resurrected at a future point," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "This is a difficult decision, given that county and local officials are clamoring for more taxpayer dollars, however, it is the right one. This is not the time to raise taxes on health insurance plans, but it is time for local governments to justify their local spending to local taxpayers."

Healthy Ohio Waiver

"It is disappointing that today the Senate did not act to join the House in overriding Governor Kasich's veto of the Healthy Ohio waiver," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in health care policy. "With Washington's failure to act on health care reform, the Healthy Ohio waiver would empower Medicaid recipients to obtain better care, put Ohio's Medicaid program on sounder financial footing, and ensure that needy Medicaid enrollees have access to good medical care."

Hederman continued, "The Senate has until the end of the legislative session to reconsider and override the governor's veto of Healthy Ohio. In addition, the Ohio House also has until the end of the legislative session to override the governor's veto of the Medicaid expansion freeze, which the Senate could then act on. These two actions would further ensure that Medicaid is made sustainable and is focused on the truly needy."

Legislative Oversight of the Controlling Board

"The Senate acted wisely and deserves a round of applause for joining the House in restoring legislative oversight to the Controlling Board," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in health care policy. "The Senate's action guarantees that the full legislature will have the final say in approving major new spending programs and all the strings that come with them."

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
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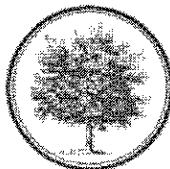
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

The Medicaid Pac-Man Keeps Eating-Up Your Tax Dollars

By Greg R. Lawson
August 23, 2017

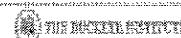
According to the Office of Budget and Management's **first monthly report** from the new fiscal, the Pac-Man of the state budget, Medicaid continues to grow.

The table below, from the OBM report, shows that Medicaid spending in July of 2017 (the first month of Fiscal Year 2018) was \$271.9 million more than the spending in July of 2016. That is a 16 percent increase and one of the largest increases in state government.

Table 4
GENERAL REVENUE FUND DISBURSEMENTS
ACTUAL FY 2018 VS ACTUAL FY 2017
(\$ in thousands)

Functional Reporting Categories Description	MONTH				YEAR-TO-DATE			
	JULY FY 2018	JULY FY 2017	\$ VAR	% VAR	ACTUAL FY 2018	ACTUAL FY 2017	\$ VAR	% VAR
Primary and Secondary Education	781,970	738,815	43,154	5.8%	781,970	738,815	43,154	5.8%
Higher Education	170,355	160,677	(10,322)	-5.7%	170,355	160,677	(10,322)	-5.7%
Other Education	7,552	8,317	(765)	-4.4%	7,552	8,317	(765)	-4.4%
Medicaid	1,972,140	1,700,244	271,896	16.0%	1,972,140	1,700,244	271,896	16.0%
Health and Human Services	121,538	125,917	(4,399)	-3.3%	121,538	125,917	(4,399)	-3.3%
Justice and Public Protection	273,532	261,533	11,999	4.6%	273,532	261,533	11,999	4.6%
General Government	42,967	33,536	10,431	31.1%	43,967	33,536	10,431	31.1%
Property Tax Reimbursements	3,158	74	3,084	4171.5%	3,158	74	3,084	4171.5%
Debt Service	228,477	244,405	(15,928)	-6.5%	228,477	244,405	(15,928)	-6.5%
Total Expenditures & ISTV's	3,603,109	3,293,519	309,590	9.4%	3,603,109	3,293,519	309,590	9.4%
Transfers Out:								
BSF Transfer	0	29,483	(29,483)	N/A	0	29,483	(29,483)	N/A
Operating Transfer Out	500	169,738	(169,238)	-99.7%	500	169,738	(169,238)	-99.7%
Temporary Transfer Out	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Total Transfers Out	500	199,221	(198,721)	-99.7%	500	199,221	(198,721)	-99.7%
Total Fund Uses	3,603,609	3,492,739	110,870	3.2%	3,603,609	3,492,739	110,870	3.2%

Source: Office of Budget and Management.



Those numbers should frighten everyone.

Thus far, Medicaid spending continues to grow rapidly and consume all in its path. In fact, Medicaid spending growth was happening well before the misguided expansion in 2013, and the influx of three quarters of a million able-bodied adults into the program has added new stresses on the program.

And while Congress can't seem to get its act together on repealing and replacing Obamacare, the "free federal money," which of course, isn't really free, is being cut under the current law. Which means more cost to you through your state tax dollars and your federal tax dollars.

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There's No Such Thing as Free Medicaid Dollars

Someone once said there's no such thing as a free lunch. The same is true of Medicaid dollars. Whether the money is coming from the state or from the federal government, it is still your taxpayer dollars.

Medicaid is a joint state/federal program where both levels of government contribute tax dollars. The amount of federal tax dollars sent to individual states varies based upon population and poverty rates. The percentage of federal dollars spent in any state is known as the federal medical assistance percentage, or **FMAP**. For Ohio, the regular FMAP is **62.32 percent**. This means that for every dollar spent on non-expansion Medicaid recipients, Ohio puts in more than 37 cents and the federal government more than 62 cents. But remember, all that money is taxpayer dollars, so it is all being collected from you and me.

The government had to complicate matters, as governments often do, when it set a different FMAP for those qualifying under Obamacare's Medicaid expansion. Initially the federal government (again, using your tax dollars) would cover 100 percent of costs for the expansion population.

Sounds good, right? This is a vastly more generous reimbursement than the feds give for the rest of the Medicaid program, including for the elderly, disabled, and medically fragile children. The enhanced funding gave the illusion of the expansion being essentially free to the state, but, of course, just because the money is redistributed from D.C., doesn't mean it's not still your tax dollars.

However, the FMAP for those qualifying under Obamacare's Medicaid expansion was always intended to be temporary and it is scheduled to be phased down to 90 percent by 2020 and further still in the future. That means the state will be required to cover more of the costs over time.

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

In an effort to begin to get control of Medicaid spending, the General Assembly took some steps in the most recent biennial budget bill. Among these include: reforms to how much unexpected federal dollars the **Controlling Board** can spend without the assent of

the full General Assembly and reasserting legislative control over expanding Medicaid to populations that aren't mandated under federal law.

These policy changes are good first steps in reigning in the Pac-Man of the Ohio budget and put Medicaid on a sounder financial footing.

Unfortunately, despite all its work during the budget process to include a requirement that the Kasich Administration resubmit the **Healthy Ohio** waiver to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Ohio Senate has not joined the Ohio House in overriding Governor Kasich's veto. The waiver would empower Medicaid recipients to obtain better care, return to work, and ensure that needy Medicaid enrollees have access to good medical services.

The Senate has until the end of the legislative session to join the House in voting to override the governor's veto, not doing so would be a missed opportunity to improve Medicaid even further while showing Washington that Ohio, and other states, can take the lead in smart health policy.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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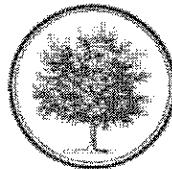
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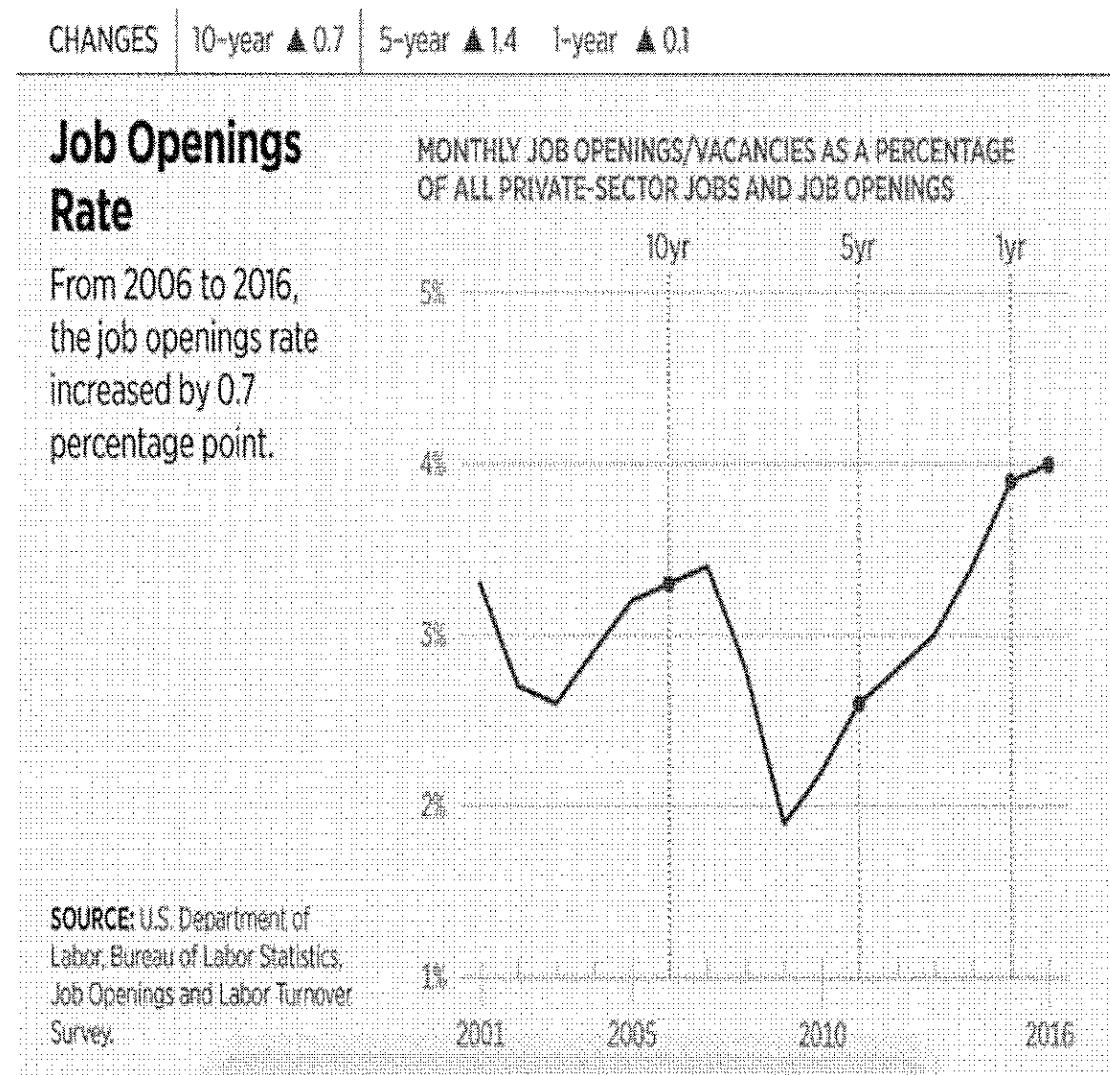
Buckeye's Greg Lawson recently authored the below piece for the *2017 Index of Culture and Opportunity* which is published by the Heritage Foundation. The index evaluates a range of factors needed to sustain freedom and opportunity in America.

A Mixed National Jobs Picture

The Heritage Foundation's *2017 Index of Culture and Opportunity*
By Greg R. Lawson

Key job metrics over the past decade paint a mixed national jobs picture. On one hand, the number of job openings over that time shows a positive path and indicates relative optimism in the economy. On the other hand, the actual hiring rate fell, which suggests that not all is well in the labor market. Taken together, this shows the need to continue improving the environment for economic opportunities that can help all Americans.

Given the "Great Recession" of 2007-2009, it is heartening to see that the overall job-opening rate has managed to achieve a positive direction. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Jobs Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS), the number of job openings grew by 0.7 percentage point between 2006 and 2016.[1] This set of data is critical to understanding how many job opportunities exist in the economy. The higher this number and growth rate, the greater the chances an individual looking for work will be able to find it.



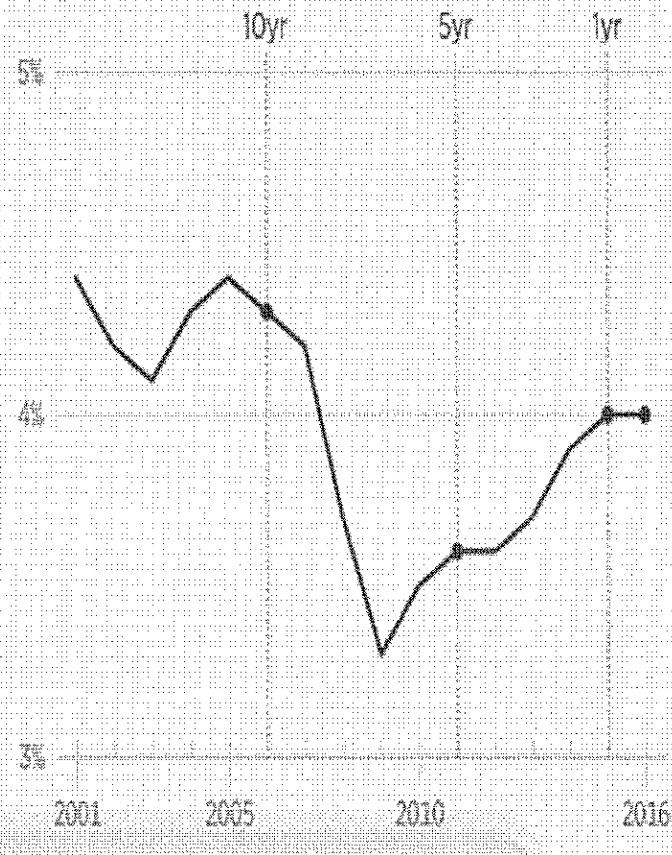
Yet the JOLTS data also show that actual hiring rates declined over the same 10 years by 0.3 percent.[2] One clear implication of this divergence is that there remains a significant challenge within the overall labor force. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in January 2006, the labor force participation rate (LFPR) in the United States was a reasonably healthy 82.6 percent for the cohort aged 25-54 (the prime-working age population).[3] Yet by December 2016, it was only 81.4 percent and had remained mired at or below 81 percent since the end of 2011.[4] This echoes the disturbing findings in the work of Nicholas Eberstadt and Charles Murray, which detail a long-term trend of lower work rates for middle-age men over the past half-century.[5]

CHANGES | 10-year ▼ 0.3 | 5-year ▲ 0.4 | 1-year No change

Job Hires Rate

MONTHLY NEW HIRES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL JOBS

From 2006 to 2016,
the job hires rate
decreased by 0.3
percentage point.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of
Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Job Openings and Labor Turnover
Survey.

This means that there are fewer prospective workers seeking work. While demographic trends in the U.S. can explain a portion of this decline, this is unlikely to be a fully sufficient explanation. For example, the growth of government-funded health care through Medicaid expansion in many states has been shown to reduce the incentives of low-income Americans to seek work.[6]

Another factor is the large number of Americans receiving payments from Social Security's Disability Insurance Fund. In 2016, there were nearly 2 million more

Americans than there were in 2006.[7] Once individuals are on disability, it is often difficult to encourage them to seek gainful employment again or keep them attached to the labor force.[8]

Additionally, drug use and addiction issues make it difficult for many employers to find workers that can pass screenings.[9] This is echoed in findings from some diagnostic information services companies.[10] This is an especially tragic problem in Ohio, which led the nation in opiate overdose fatalities in 2014 with over 2,100.[11]

Finally, the "skills gap" theory assumes that employers are dissatisfied with the skill level of prospective employees and cannot find adequate talent to fill their openings. However, there is a lot of pushback on this theory given that the obvious consequence of such a gap should be rapidly growing wages as employers seek to procure the best talent. Despite a recent upward trend, the fact that a dramatic increase in wages has largely not happened since the end of the Great Recession raises questions about the applicability of this theory.[12]

Years after the Great Recession, significant problems remain when it comes to connecting a broad swath of prospective workers to open jobs. Tackling the hard tasks of reforming Medicaid, better monitoring Social Security Disability payments, and getting treatment for those suffering the scourge of addiction will prove to be indispensable in fixing this state of affairs.

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Greg R. Lawson is a research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

[1] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "**Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)**," multi-screen data search (accessed April 28, 2017).

[2] Ibid.

[3] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "**Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey**," (accessed April 28, 2017).

[4] Ibid.

[5] Nicholas Eberstadt, *Men Without Work* (West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2016). See also Charles Murray, *Coming Apart: The State of White America: 1960-2010*, (New York, NY: Crown Forum, 2013).

[6] Craig Garthwaite, Tal Gross, and Matthew J. Notowidigo, *Public Health Insurance, Labor Supply, and Employment Lock*, National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 19220, July 2013, (accessed April 28, 2017).

[7] Social Security Administration, Office of the Chief Actuary, "**Selected Data from Social Security's Disability Program**," (accessed April 6, 2017).

- [8] News release, "Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics-2015," U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 21, 2016, (accessed April 28, 2017).
- [9] Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, "New-Hires Refuse or Fail Drug Tests," June 10, 2014, (accessed April 21, 2017).
- [10] News release, "Illicit Drug Positivity Rate Increases Sharply in Workplace Testing, Finds Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing IndexTM Analysis," Quest Diagnostics, June 9, 2015, (accessed April 28, 2017).
- [11] Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts, "Opioid Overdose Deaths by Type of Opioid," 2014, (accessed April 6, 2017).
- [12] News release, "Employment Cost Index-March 2017," U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 28, 2017, (accessed May 9, 2017).

#

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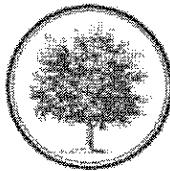
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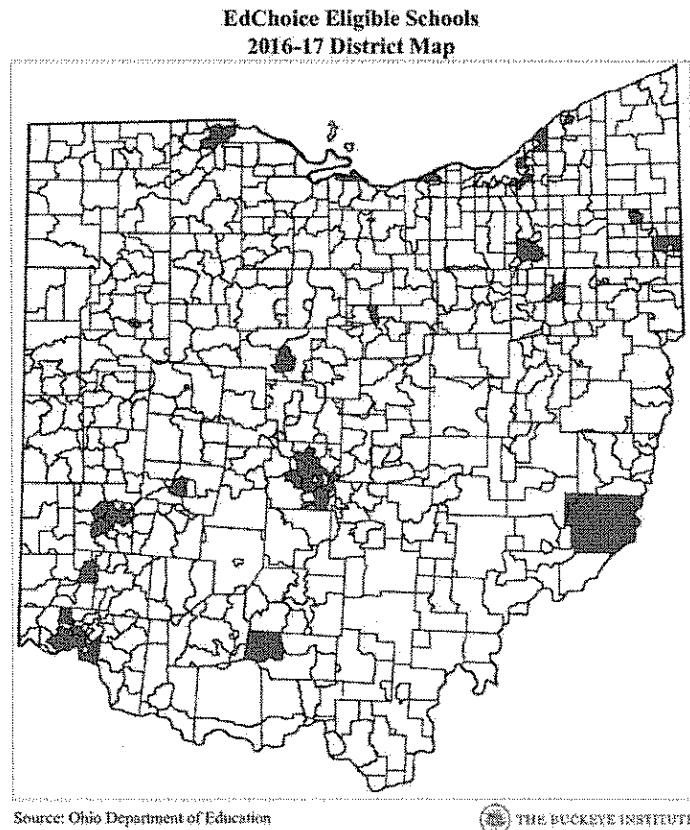
Students and Parents Are Given Little Choice When it Comes to School Choice

By Greg R. Lawson
August 31, 2017

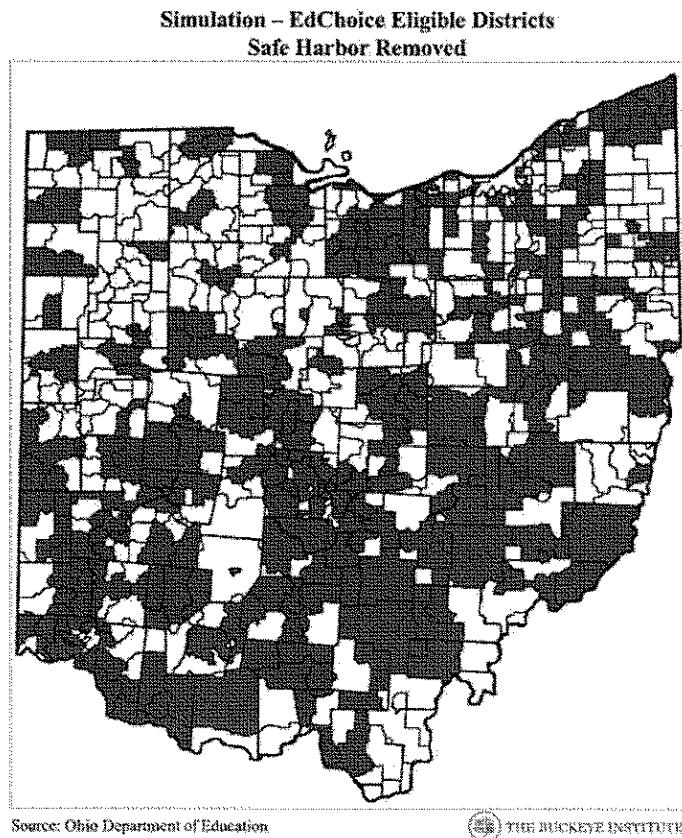
More families in Ohio should be able have to avail themselves of school choice than are being allowed to. This is a tragedy for those seeking to escape schools that are not meeting their needs.

Ohio is one of only a few states where its largest school choice program, the **EdChoice Scholarship**, is available only to those students who are assigned to failing schools. However, due to the **safe harbor** provision, which suspends the consequences of schools failing tests for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, many students are not eligible for EdChoice even if they are in a failing school.

For example, this map shows EdChoice eligible districts for the 2016-2017 school year after applying the safe harbor provisions. As you can see, students in only a few areas of the state are eligible.



As a comparison, this map shows how many areas would become eligible for EdChoice in the absence of the safe harbor provisions. They look radically different and show just how many students in failing would be able to take advantage of the EdChoice program if it were not for the safe harbor restriction.



Another program available to lower income families is the EdChoice Expansion Program. This program allows students from lower income families to escape failing schools irrespective of the results from state testing. However, given the funding mechanism and the fewer dollars available, far fewer students are able to access the program.

There are several solutions to this sad state of affairs. First, safe harbor provisions should be eliminated so that EdChoice can function the way it was intended. Alternatively, Ohio should scrap the failing schools model completely and shift to a full income-based approach similar to how the EdChoice Expansion Program operates. Given that few states have a failing school model, this type of shift would bring Ohio closer in line with school choice programs in other states.

Even better, Ohio should move towards fully embracing education savings accounts, (ESA) as outlined in The Buckeye Institute's report, *Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio*.

The report outlines precisely how ESAs would enable parents to customize their child's education to meet his or her unique needs. For example, ESAs would allow parents to pay not only for private schools, but also allow them to use any remaining money in the account to pay for additional educational items such as textbooks, tutors, enroll students in online classes, or even save money for college.

At the end of the day, Ohio should stop short-changing parents' ability to choose the best education environment for their children. Every student has the right to be given all of the tools they need to succeed. They should not be denied due to policies that protect school systems over school students.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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Thank you,

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The bill is supported by the Buckeye Institute, Americans for Prosperity, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, NFIB Ohio, the Ohio Telecom Association, and the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association among others. House Bill 133 is a Buckeye Pathway bill as its intent is to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses operated in the state. The bill was reported unanimously from the House Public Utilities Committee without opposition.

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The committee would study the features, benefits, and challenges involved in establishing metropolitan economic development alliances that would incentivize cooperation, enhance success, and provide for greater efficiency in economic development among participating municipal corporations, namely in metropolitan areas.

The committee may also consider the process and structure of such alliances and review legislative proposals. In completing its study, the committee shall consult with various groups, including county commissioners, township trustees, mayors, city council members, members of statewide and metropolitan organizations, and members of chambers of commerce.

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Shawn Kasych
Majority Policy Director
Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger
Office 614.466.0863
Cell 216.299.0901



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Policy Department

Policy Agenda – Week of September 10, 2017

❖ **Tuesday, September 12th**

Caucus – 7:00PM

❖ **Wednesday, September 13th**

Caucus – 12:30PM

Session - 1:30PM

- ❖  • **H.B. 133** – Rep. Ryan - Reported from Public Utilities (21-0)
 - *Exempts certain out of state businesses from taxes when working on disaster relief*
- ❖ • **S.B. 37** – Sen. Hite - Reported from State and Local Government (11-0)
 - *Require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for certain newly appointed chiefs of police*
 - *Fire truck amendment*
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House Bill 133 – Representative Scott Ryan

House Bill 133 intends to exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster.

This legislation will allow communications companies, utilities, and other infrastructure companies to rapidly deploy resources in the wake of a declared disaster and will prevent out of state personnel from being delayed by the state's regulatory and tax paperwork. The legislation is designed to accelerate restoration efforts and to get the state's citizens, businesses and infrastructure on the road to recovery at a faster rate.

The bill is supported by the Buckeye Institute, Americans for Prosperity, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, NFIB Ohio, the Ohio Telecom Association, and the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association among others. House Bill 133 is a Buckeye Pathway bill as its intent is to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses operated in the state. The bill was reported unanimously from the House Public Utilities Committee without opposition.

Senate Bill 37 – Senator Cliff Hite

Senate Bill 37 creates an opportunity for local police chiefs to get additional professional training. The legislation will require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for newly appointed chiefs of police in villages, cities, and townships.

Under the bill, the 40-hour chief of police training course will be offered semi-annually through OPOTC. Beginning on January 1, 2018, a newly appointed chief of police would be required to attend the training course offered by OPOTC. The cost and expenses of attending the training will be paid for by the local jurisdictions, while the Attorney General's office will cover the cost of the training.

The bill received support from the Ohio Attorney General and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Senate Bill 37 was reported unanimously from the House State and Local Government Committee.

House Bill 122 – Representatives Steve Hambley and John Rogers

House Bill 122 would establish the Regional Economic Development Study Committee to investigate the benefits of creating metropolitan economic development alliances.

The committee would study the features, benefits, and challenges involved in establishing metropolitan economic development alliances that would incentivize cooperation, enhance success, and provide for greater efficiency in economic development among participating municipal corporations, namely in metropolitan areas.

The committee may also consider the process and structure of such alliances and review legislative proposals. In completing its study, the committee shall consult with various groups, including county commissioners, township trustees, mayors, city council members, members of statewide and metropolitan organizations, and members of chambers of commerce.

The proposed committee would be bipartisan and will consist of members from the Ohio House of Representatives, the Ohio Senate, a designee of the Governor, academic representatives, and a representative from the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The committee will submit a report of its findings within one year of the effective date of the bill. The bill was reported unanimously from the House State and Local Government Committee.

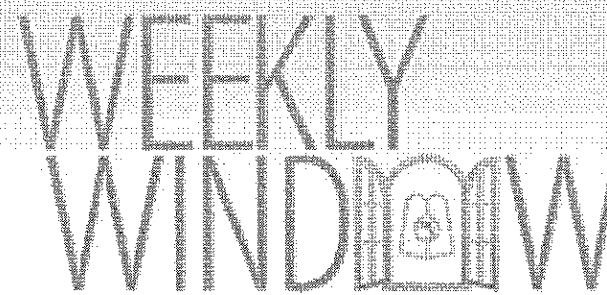
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News & Information for the Week of
September 11 - September 15, 2017



by Agudath Israel of America
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sweet
new year!

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Jewish Dreamers?

Rabbi A.D. Motzen

National Director of State Relations

- Some of you, including the JTA Washington, D. C. bureau chief, were surprised to learn from our statement last week that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) also affects Jewish families. To read the JTA story that follows up on our statement [click here](#).
- With Illinois passing a scholarship tax credit, pressure is building in other states to follow suit. In New York, Agudat Israel hosted a group of Assemblymembers on Wednesday to discuss this issue ([see here](#)). The following day, school choice was the main agenda item as dozens of faith leaders and nonpublic school representatives gathered in Jefferson City, Missouri for a meeting with Will Scharf, policy director for Governor Eric Greitens and other top staffers from his office. I attended the meeting in place of Rabbi Shlomo Soroka, our Illinois director of Government Affairs who has assumed responsibility for his former home state.



Rabbi A.D. Motzen, Daniel Lefton, Will Scharf (policy director for Missouri Governor Eric Greitens)

- I encourage you to read the excellent interview in Ami magazine of our very own Mrs. Leah Steinberg, director of Project LEARN. It is a great lesson in what one person with a dream can accomplish when they harness the power of the larger community.
- Agudath Israel of California held a legislative breakfast on Sunday which brought together elected officials and community leaders in Los Angeles. Thank you to Dr. Irving Lebovics for hosting the event.
- While Hurricane Irma didn't cause as much as destruction as originally feared, it still destroyed many homes and left millions without power. Our thoughts are with all those affected by Irma and those still recovering from Hurricane Harvey. Agudath Israel has provided financial assistance to Jewish communities affected by both hurricanes.
- One related issue that recently received increased attention is the difficulty

of receiving FEMA funding for religious institutions affected by natural disasters. Agudath Israel has been fighting on behalf of our synagogues and schools for many years on this issue, and we are hopeful that we will finally see the issue resolved. In the words of Rabbi Abba Cohen, "It defies common sense or any sense of fairness to deny disaster relief to houses of worship, especially when zoos and other recreational facilities are eligible to receive such aid. When disaster strikes, the stability of a community's houses of worship and other religious entities is vital to its spirit and morale and ultimately to its ability to recover."

- With the holiday of Sukkos coming up, residents of one community in New Jersey will be able to observe the holiday properly thanks to the intervention of Agudath Israel.
- Finally, in an interview featured on HuffPost this week, I offered some networking and advocacy advice. Your feedback is appreciated!

Wishing all of our readers a happy and healthy sweet new year!

A. D.



Agudath Israel hosts NY assembly members to explore relief for tuition paying parents

Rabbi Yeruchim Silber
Director, New York Government Relations

September 13, 2017 - New York - New York Assembly Members from around the city met this week with Agudath Israel activists and community leaders to explore options for relief for tuition paying parents and plan strategically for how best to accomplish this in the upcoming legislative session.

New York State's 410,451 nonpublic school students, whose parents choose not to avail themselves of the public school system, save the state and municipalities over \$7 billion. This is more than the state spends on public health, other education, local government assistance, parks, environment, economic development and public safety.



Ahudath Israel of America

Assemblyman Joe Lentol (Williamsburgh), Chair of the event, speaking. (L-R): On his right, Assemblymember Helene Weinstein (Flatbush) and Assemblyman David Veprin (Queens). To his left, Assemblymember Stacey Pheffer Amato (Far Rockaway) and Assemblyman Steve Cymbrowitz (Brooklyn).

Over 30 states now have some sort of school choice or education scholarship programs, with the latest being Illinois which just last month passed a \$100 million education Scholarship Tax Credit.

As Rabbi Lefkowitz explained, "while at the same time supporting public schools, it is high time that something be done to help parents who send their children to private and parochial schools."



Haskel Bennett, Agudah Board of Trustees Member, Speaking. Others (L-R): Agudah's Director, NY Government Relations, Rabbi Yeruchim Silber; Executive Vice President Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Vice President for Community Affairs Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, and Rabbi Josh Mehlman, Chair of the Flatbush Jewish Community Coalition

Assembly members Michael Cusick (Staten Island), Steven Cymbrowitz (Brooklyn), Pamela Harris (Coney Island - represented by phone, by Yveline Dalmacy of her staff); Chair of the group Joe Lentol (Williamsburgh), Stacey Pheffer Amato (Far Rockaway, Howard Beach), Hudy Rosenberg of Nily Rozic's office (Queens), Aravella Simotas (Queens),

Helene Weinstein (Flatbush) and David Weprin (Queens) approached the situation from a practical perspective and spoke of the need to work together to serve their constituents.

As the legislative season starts, Agudath Israel will be doing everything possible to achieve relief for tuition paying parents. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Rabbi Yeruchim Silber at ysilber@agudathisrael.org.



Agudath Israel of America

Assemblyman Michael Cusick (Staten Island)

To continue reading [CLICK HERE](#)



Agudath Israel of America welcomes amicable resolution of sukkah issue in Lakewood senior community

Rabbi Avi Schnall

Director, Agudath Israel of America's New Jersey Region

Agudath Israel of America's New Jersey Office praised the Homeowners' Association of the Enclave senior community in Lakewood for its decision regarding the right of its residents to build Sukkahs in the community. The association stated that residents could build Sukkahs as long as they followed certain guidelines that take into account the governing board's concern about the beauty and safety of the community. Agudath Israel of America's New Jersey Office expressed its appreciation for the amicable resolution of the issue.

"We are pleased that the Homeowners Association devised a solution - amicably and outside the legal system - that simultaneously protects religious rights and the quality of life of this beautiful community," said Rabbi Avi Schnall, director of Agudath Israel's New Jersey Office.

To continue reading click [here](#)



Agudath Israel of California hosts legislative breakfast

Dr. Irving Lebovics

Chairman, Agudath Israel of California

On Sunday September 10th, Agudath Israel of California hosted a legislative breakfast at the home of Chairman Dr. Irving Lebovics. Approximately 50 community leaders and activists attended and had an opportunity to have meaningful discussions with the various government officials who came. Among the topics covered were government aid to Jewish schools, support for Israel, anti-BDS legislation, religious freedom, community safety and the current political realities. It was a chance for the government representatives to get to know the Jewish community leaders and an opportunity for the Jewish community to thank those government leaders for the work they have done in behalf of the Jewish community.



The new LA County Chief Medical Examiner -Coroner Dr. Jonathan Lucas, was in attendance, together with the recently elected chairman of the California Democratic Party, Eric Bauman. The State Legislature was represented by Assemblymen Richard Bloom and Adrin Nazarian, and State Senator Ben Allen. Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz and David Ryu attended together with representatives from the Congressional offices of Ted Lieu and Brad Sherman. LA County Prison Chaplain Shirley Friedman rounded out the group of government officials.

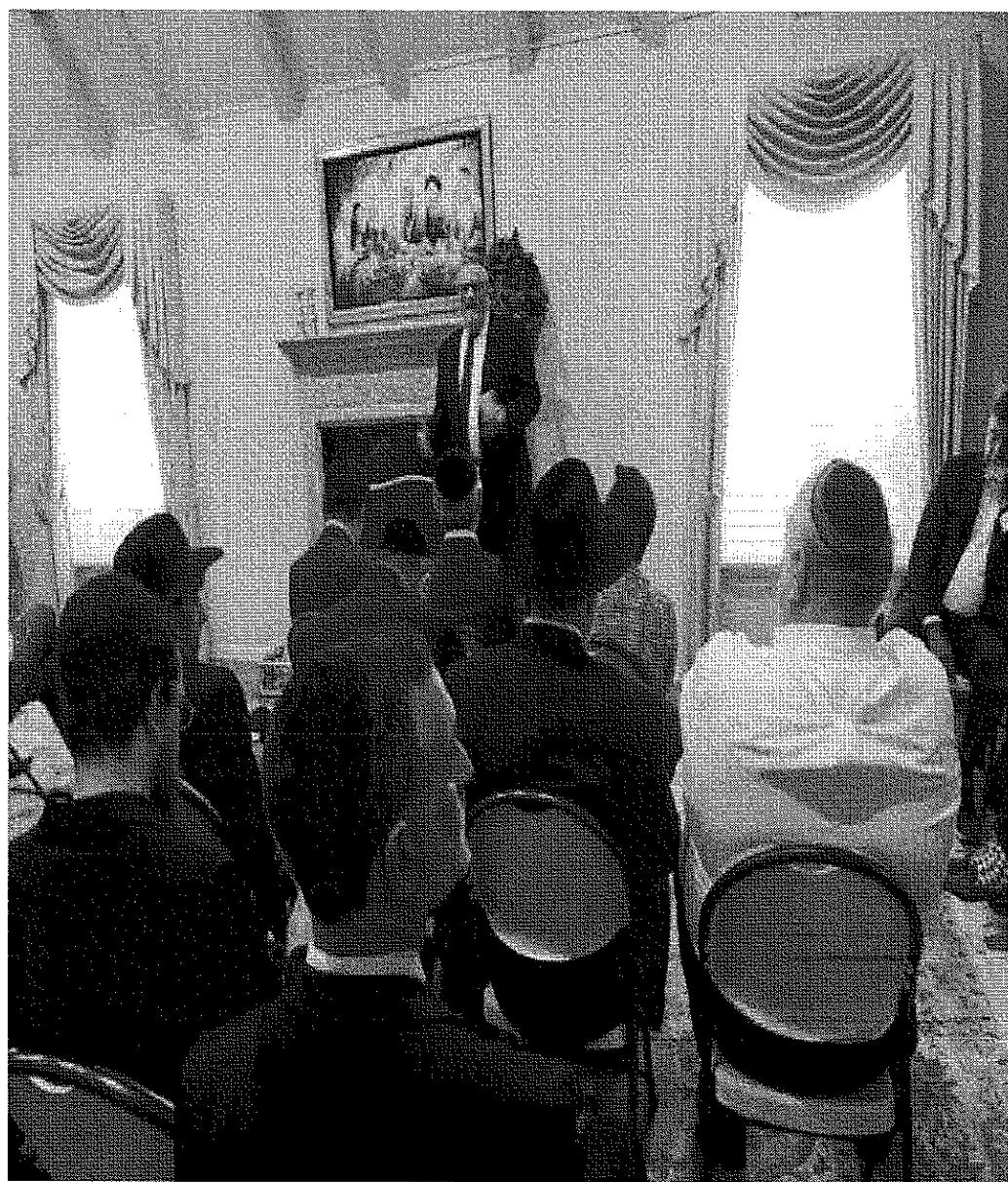
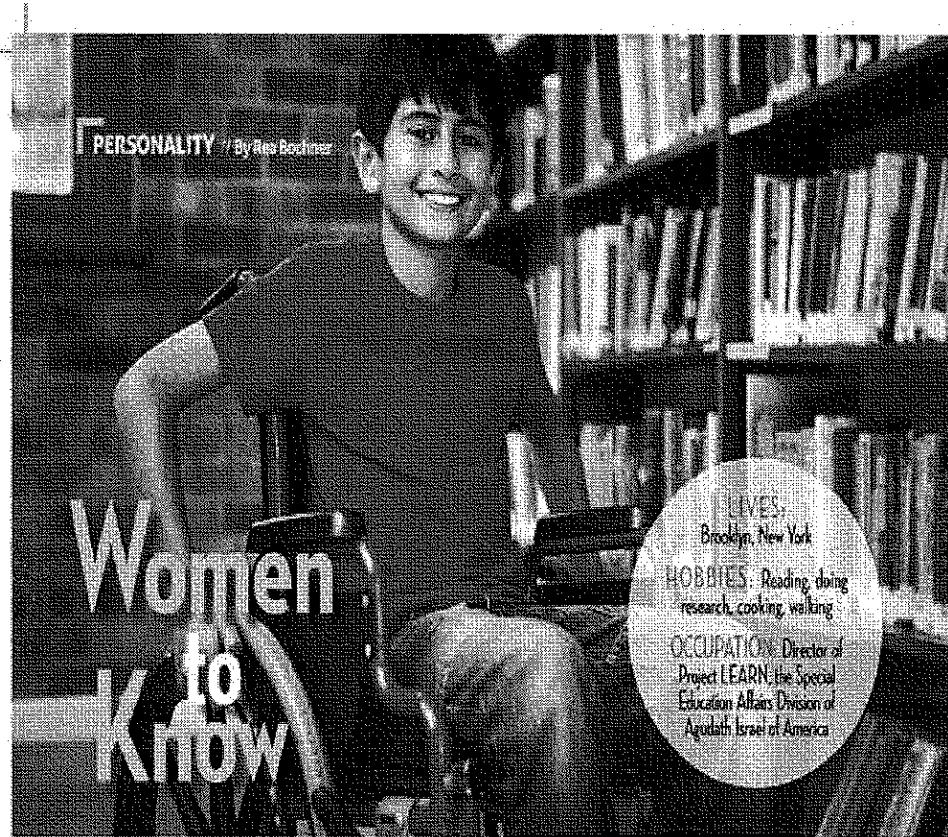


Photo credits: Aryeh Gordon

To see more photos from the event [CLICK HERE](#)

- A





Leah Steinberg

"These students shouldn't be made to feel different from other children."

Mrs. Leah Steinberg is a wonderful woman to know—and not just as an interview subject (although after an hourlong chat, she is officially one of my favorites). The director of Project LEARN and a member of three advisory boards for children with special needs, Mrs. Steinberg is a powerhouse who has been working to implement legislative changes in New York State and integrate children with a variety of special needs into mainstream Jewish schools for the past 16 years.

As a result of her efforts, hundreds of

parents have successfully advocated for their children and enabled them to have a positive school experience.

Helping others comes naturally to Mrs. Steinberg, the daughter of Holocaust survivors whose priority was always caring for others. Years ago, while building up a gift and housewares store, they were faced with a decision about whether to care for Mrs. Steinberg's terminally ill grandfather, a *talmid chacham* who lived with them, or to focus on their fledgling business. Everyone advised them to put him in hospice care, but for her parents there was really no decision: "We can always make *perman* later."

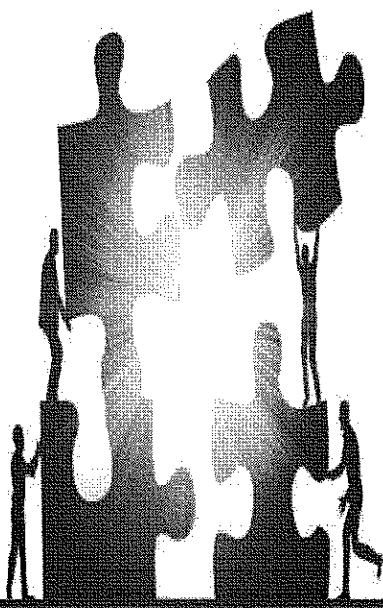
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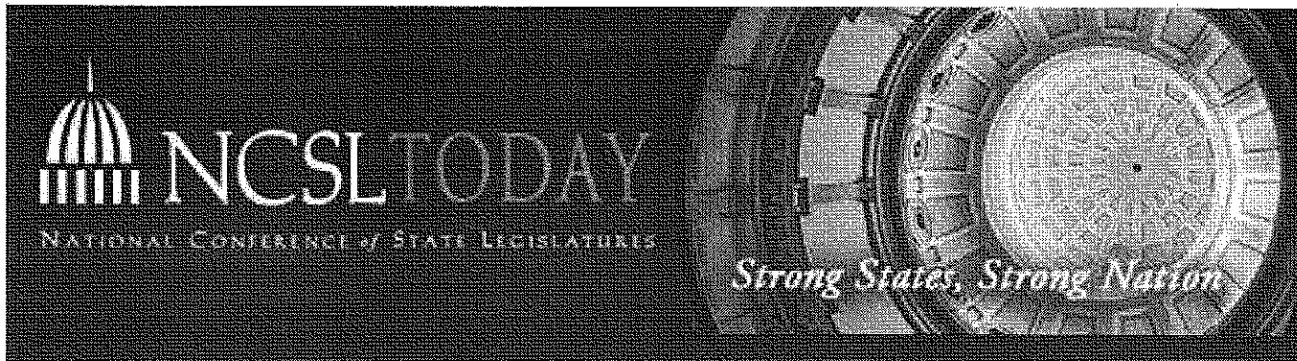
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TOP NEWS Sept. 20, 2017

States take action to combat child abuse

Stateline

Spurred by high-profile cases of endangered children and chronically overworked caseworkers, many states have taken steps this year to shield children from abuse and neglect, including adding caseworkers, tightening reporting requirements and expanding the definition of "abuse."

NCSL resources on state strategies to prevent child injuries and abuse.

Massachusetts attorney general sues Equifax over data hack

CNBC

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey filed a lawsuit on Tuesday against credit reporting firm Equifax following a breach that exposed the personal data of as many as 143 million people, including 3 million in the state.

States face fiscal challenges as Congress weighs tax reform

The Hill

State governments are likely to face a new round of budget cuts and belt-tightening as revenue growth slows, due in part to uncertainty over whether Congress will reform the federal tax code.

Wisconsin appeals court upholds 'right-to-work' law, dealing blow to unions

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



Preventing child and adolescent injuries and violence

As more evidence becomes available about the long-lasting effects of early harmful events—including their personal and financial impacts—policymakers are increasingly exploring whether states have a role in preventing and mitigating such experiences.

GOP Gov. Scott Walker and Republican lawmakers in 2015 approved the law, which prohibits labor contracts that require all workers in certain job classifications — including those who don't want to belong to a union — to pay union fees.

NCSL right-to-work resources.

Tennessee reinstates work requirements for food stamp recipients

Nashville Tennessean

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and administration officials today announced plans to reinstate federal work requirements for "able-bodied" adults without dependents for eligibility in the federal food stamp program.

The next big technology to transform government

Governing

It's called blockchain. Some say it will have a bigger impact than the internet.

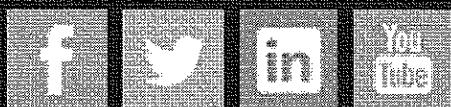
State efforts promote hybrid and electric vehicles

Register now for the NCSL Capitol Forum Dec. 10-13 in Coronado, Calif.

Capitol to Capitol: One last attempt to repeal Obamacare

National Voter Registration Day is fast-approaching

Given that voting is the foundation of the American republic, it is fitting that we will soon celebrate National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 26.



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Photo: iStockphoto.com/Debra L. Miller

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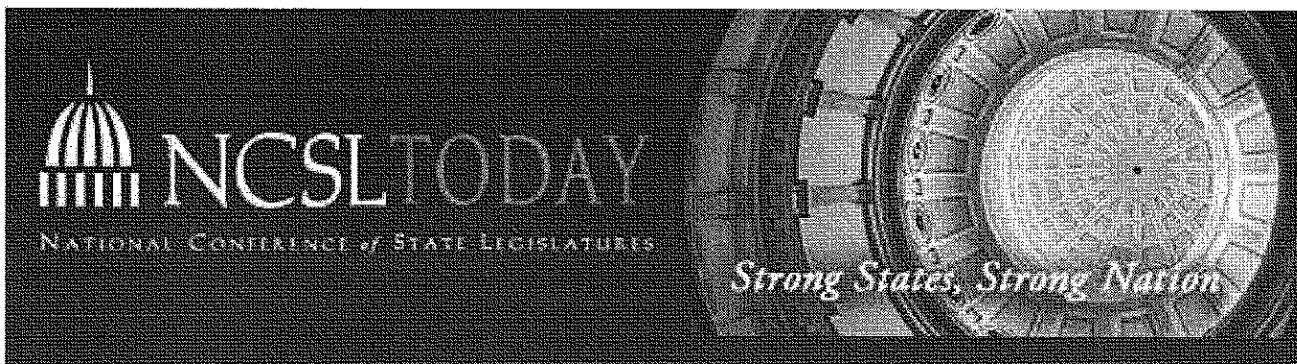
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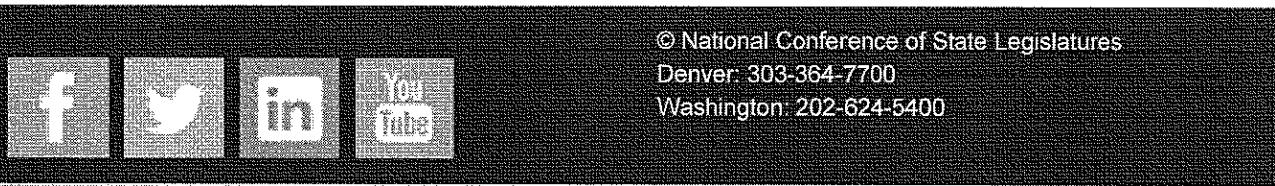
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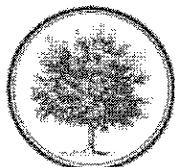
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2017

Buckeye's Greg Lawson: Government Transparency Empowers Ohioans and Increases Accountability

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified (see full testimony below) today before the Ohio House Finance Committee on the DataOhio project and the transparency policies that are included in House Bill 3.

In his remarks, Lawson highlighted The Buckeye Institute's advocacy in support of government transparency saying, "Transparency helps citizens better understand what their government has done, what it is doing, and what remains to be done with their tax dollars. Fiscal transparency helps keep government accountable to the citizenry, fosters a more

informed public, and facilitates a better dialogue between the people and their elected representatives."

Noting the challenges of providing fiscal transparency for Ohio's local governments, Lawson stressed the benefits of DataOhio and other transparency tools. "The DataOhio project can further promote transparency by developing a standard chart of accounts so that citizens and policymakers can make apples-to-apples comparisons of spending across diverse local governments. This would help constituents and even lawmakers make better sense of how our local governments operate."

Lawson concluded saying, "DataOhio and similar efforts can all work together as complementary tools for the common, important purpose of empowering Ohio's taxpayers to raise accountability at all levels of Ohio government."

#

**Interested Party Testimony Submitted to the
Ohio House Finance Committee on House Bill 3**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
September 20, 2017**

Thank you Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan and Ranking Member Cera for the opportunity to testify before the Ohio House Finance Committee. My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**.

I am here with a few brief remarks regarding House Bill 3, the DataOhio project. I have previously testified about DataOhio and the need for government transparency. I appreciate the chance to revisit the issue today.

The Buckeye Institute has long championed a more transparent government that makes it easier for taxpayers to see and understand how Columbus spends their hard-earned money. Such transparency helps citizens better understand what their government has done, what it is doing, and what remains to be done with their tax dollars. Fiscal transparency helps keep government accountable to the citizenry, fosters a more informed public, and facilitates a better dialogue between the people and their elected representatives.

Recognizing the need for and challenges of providing more fiscal transparency, The Buckeye Institute developed its own searchable database for tracking state spending on salaries for state employees, K-12 teachers, four-year higher education, and select local government employees. Of course, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and The Buckeye Institute's database proved so popular and useful that the **Ohio Treasurer of State** and the **Office of Budget and Management** now offer even more robust services.

Despite its popularity and usefulness, The Buckeye Institute's database, as well as existing state services, are not comprehensive toolkits. For example, it does not publish information on vendor payments made by localities, and the local component that lists local government salaries remains quite limited. While the State Treasurer's office, has expanded the state's **Ohio Checkbook** database so that it now also includes many Ohio local governments, more transparency is better than less.

As time goes on, this will prove increasingly important for Ohioans seeking to understand the operations of local governments, especially in an era of potentially reduced resources.

Ohio boasts thousands of local governmental bodies and a labyrinth of taxing authorities. As The Buckeye Institute outlined several years ago.

As of October 2007, Ohio ranked seventh among states regarding the number of local governmental entities and taxing authorities according to the U.S. Census Bureau, with a staggering 3,702 entities. On average, there are more than 41 taxing authorities per county, which is 46 percent more than the national average of 28.

Ohio had the sixth highest number of municipalities (938) and townships (1,308). There are 614 school districts as well as a myriad of law enforcement and safety entities along with special district governments. Cuyahoga County alone has 104 local government entities.[1]

Without fiscal transparency for Ohio's local governments, taxpayers remain largely in the dark without ready access to vital information needed for holding their elected officials accountable.

The DataOhio project can further promote transparency by developing a standard chart of accounts so that citizens and policymakers can make apples-to-apples comparisons of spending across these diverse local governments. This would help constituents and even lawmakers make better sense of how our local governments operate—again, an increasingly

important issue as the General Assembly debates the adequacy of local government resources.

DataOhio and similar efforts can all work together as complementary tools for the common, important purpose of empowering Ohio's taxpayers to raise accountability at all levels of Ohio government.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to answering any questions from the committee at this time.

[1] Lawson, Greg R., *Joining Forces: Consolidation Will Help Ohio's Local Governments if Compensation Package Costs are Properly Managed*, The Buckeye Institute, October 3, 2011.

#

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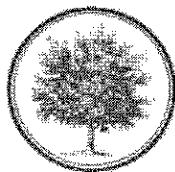
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Time to Fight the Rising Tide of Occupational Licensing

By Greg R. Lawson
September 25, 2017

Recently, there has been a flood of potentially harmful legislation that risks undercutting Ohio's prosperity. Bad bills that expand burdensome occupational licensing requirements to an ever-larger number of Ohioans remains a serious impediment to creating an economically prosperous state where people are able to pursue job opportunities and career advancement without needing to seek costly, time-consuming permission from government.

Legislation that requires more and more professions to be licensed has been coming fast and furious including those licensing: **residential only building contractors, commercial roofing contractors, home inspectors, elevator and escalators installers.**

Each of these pieces of legislation are being promoted by advocates as being necessary for public safety or to protect consumers. Unfortunately, what these bills do is restrict opportunity for Ohioans seeking jobs.

As **The Buckeye Institute** as found in our *Forbidden to Succeed* report:

"High fees and training requirements reduce an occupation's job growth by 20 percent, as prospective workers who cannot afford to enter the occupation remain unemployed or underemployed."

Of Ohio's 31 moderate-income occupations requiring licensure, 15 require hundreds or even thousands of hours of training. Remarkably, nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state. For example, while there is pending legislation to reduce this absurd number, cosmetologists currently need 1,500 hours of education to get a license. That is **10 times** the amount of education needed to become a basic emergency medical technician that literally saves lives! That is also 500 more hours than what is needed in the seat of high fashion in America- New York!

Ohio certainly needs to require appropriate training and licensing for jobs with health and safety concerns, such as physicians and pilots, and no one disputes this. However, such concern fades dramatically when applied, for example, to **auctioneers** (that have to meet apprenticeship requirements), travel guides (**Lake Erie Fishing guides** need to pony up \$50 to be licensed), and hairdressers, all of which require licenses today in Ohio.

This burden is even more daunting for the employment prospects that are faced by many in Ohio's minority communities. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, the most recent unemployment rate was 7.7 percent for African Americans-nearly double the 3.9 percent unemployment rate for whites. Similarly, unemployment confronts a staggering 23.4 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, and 11.8 percent of young whites.

Adding more licenses onto Ohioans is not going to reverse these discouraging trends.

Given these fact, it isn't surprising that there is growing non-partisan acknowledgement that licensing laws have gone too far. From **The Buckeye Institute** and the **Heritage Foundation** to the **Brookings Institute** to both the **Obama White House** and the

Trump Administration, there is a growing consensus that these burdensome licensing requirements are bad for everyone.

So what can be done?

We need to continue raising awareness of the issue to members of the Ohio General Assembly. The Buckeye Institute is working with a number of policymakers in order to educate them on the need for meaningful reforms. This includes **policy** that will require the state to impose the least restrictive type of occupational licensing regulation to ensure consumer protection, while also establish a sunrise and sunset review processes for existing of licensing boards and new licensing legislation. Over time, the use of these reviews will help clean up antiquated licensing requirements while preventing new ones from cluttering Ohio's laws.

We also need to continue removing burdensome requirements for specific professions. The Buckeye Institute is already working with individual salon owners and a bipartisan group of legislators, including republicans **Representative Kristina Roegner** (R-Hudson) and **Senator Kris Jordan** (R-Ostrander), and democrats **Representative Alicia Reece** (D-Cincinnati) and **Senator Charleta Tavares** (D-Columbus) to improve cosmetology policy. The goal is to build upon the successes in the **previous General Assembly** and to move towards **further reducing** burdens on cosmetologists.

Finally, we need to look at how we remove employment barriers for spouses of military personnel stationed in Ohio. Buckeye is leading the way by developing good **policy** that would recognize out-of-state licenses for military spouses.

It is inevitable that in every General Assembly there will be a series of licensing bills that risk ensnaring many Ohioans in a bureaucratic, and often expensive maze, that delays their ability to make a living and move up the ladder of success. However, working to strengthen the growing bipartisan consensus we can **eliminate** these burdensome regulations and ensure Ohioans can pursue job opportunities and career advancement.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

#

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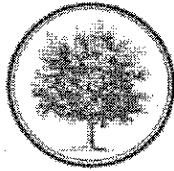
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Batter Up: Buckeye's ad to debut during Reds and Indians games

While the country debates NFL players' controversial protests of our National Anthem, The Buckeye Institute is cheering on Major League Baseball's two Ohio teams this week. We hope you are too.

The regular season is drawing to a close, and your Buckeye Institute has stepped up to the plate to hit a timely homerun.

Our new campaign has already earned media attention across the country in more than 31 radio markets with much more to come! We are also posting an editorial on [FoxNews.com](#), which we will send as soon as it goes up.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's time to play ball: **Worker Voting Rights: Giving a Voice and Choice to Union Members** is airing during several upcoming Cleveland Indians and Cincinnati Reds games.

Mark your calendar and tune in to catch our ad live!

Game:	Date:	To Air During:	Station:
Cleveland Indians v. Minnesota Twins	Wednesday, September 27	Innings 2-3	FSN
Cleveland Indians v. Chicago White Sox	Friday, September 29	Innings 1-6	STOh & CSCh
Cincinnati Reds v. Milwaukee Brewers	Wednesday, September 27	Innings 5-6	FSW1 & FSOH
Cincinnati Reds v. Chicago Cubs	Sunday, October 1	Innings 6-9	FSOH

Visit www.WorkerVotingRights.org to learn more about this important issue.

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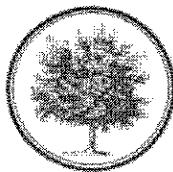
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 2017

Buckeye's Daniel Dew: Reagan Tokes Act a Positive Step for Criminal Justice Reform

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's Daniel J. Dew made the following comments regarding the Reagan Tokes Act, which was unveiled today by State Representatives Jim Hughes (R-Upper Arlington) and Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus), and State Senators Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) and Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta). The act would move away from determinate sentencing and move toward indeterminate sentencing for certain offenses.

"Incentives matter, and the Regan Tokes Act takes a step in the right direction in keeping dangerous criminals in prison longer and incentivizing inmates to get the rehabilitation and training necessary to become contributing members of society upon release," said Daniel J.

Dew, legal fellow at The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center** and an expert in criminal justice reform. "Ninety-seven percent of all offenders sent to prison will re-enter our communities someday, and indeterminate sentencing incentivizes rehabilitation which will help keep our communities safer."

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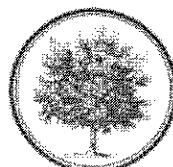
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To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Don't Believe in Free Money, the Lesson of the MCO Sales Tax, By Greg R. Lawson

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Don't Believe in Free Money, the Lesson of the MCO Sales Tax

By Greg R. Lawson
September 27, 2017

When something sounds **too good to be true**, it usually is. That is especially so when images of free dollars are floating in front of politicians' eyes! Hopefully, this is a lesson that will be learned by most Ohio elected officials after the affair concerning the Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) sales tax fiasco.

Before Medicaid was ever expanded in Ohio, The Buckeye Institute warned proponents multiple times (see [here](#) and [here](#)) that one of the big selling points -- the windfall revenues to be expected from the MCO sales tax -- were illusions. They would be, at best, temporary because the federal government was practically guaranteed to eliminate the ability to levy that tax.

At the time, few seemed to take notice. Then, when it happened, **exactly as predicted**, there were howls of concern. The state managed to make itself whole through a deal made with the outgoing Obama Administration. However, Ohio's counties, that were gaining more than \$200 million from their local piggy-back sales tax, were not made whole. Throughout the entire budget process, there were efforts to raise state taxes in order to make up for this local windfall that should have always been considered temporary.

The Buckeye Institute **opposed this policy** and made clear that if new revenues are truly needed, then counties should justify the need for more taxes to their own constituents and not expect Columbus to ride to the rescue on a white horse.

According to pieces in *The Columbus Dispatch* and *The Plain Dealer*, it now appears that there will be no taxes raised at the state level to pay for local services and projects, which is as it should be. While the details of the proposal indicate up to \$80 million more might get distributed to counties from existing state resources, this will undoubtedly not be one-time deal and will continue the cycle of local governments turning to the state to pay for local services.

Next time there looks to be so-called "free" dollars, policymakers should take a much longer, harder look and remember these are all taxpayer dollars, and that it is almost certainly "too good to be true."

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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From: Rossman, Brent
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 10:43 AM
To: House_All
Subject: Goodbye!
Attachments: IMG_2029.JPG

Good morning everyone,

Since I started in the House, I've had the Ashbrook Center's pocket Constitution and Declaration perched upon my desk. It's a neat little booklet that also contains Lincoln's Second Inaugural, the Gettysburg Address, and excerpts from some of Thomas Jefferson's letters. I've turned to it many times for inspiration, and occasionally, for work purposes. I carried this same pocket constitution while I was in college, when I was just beginning to understand the depth of meaning contained in our Founding documents.

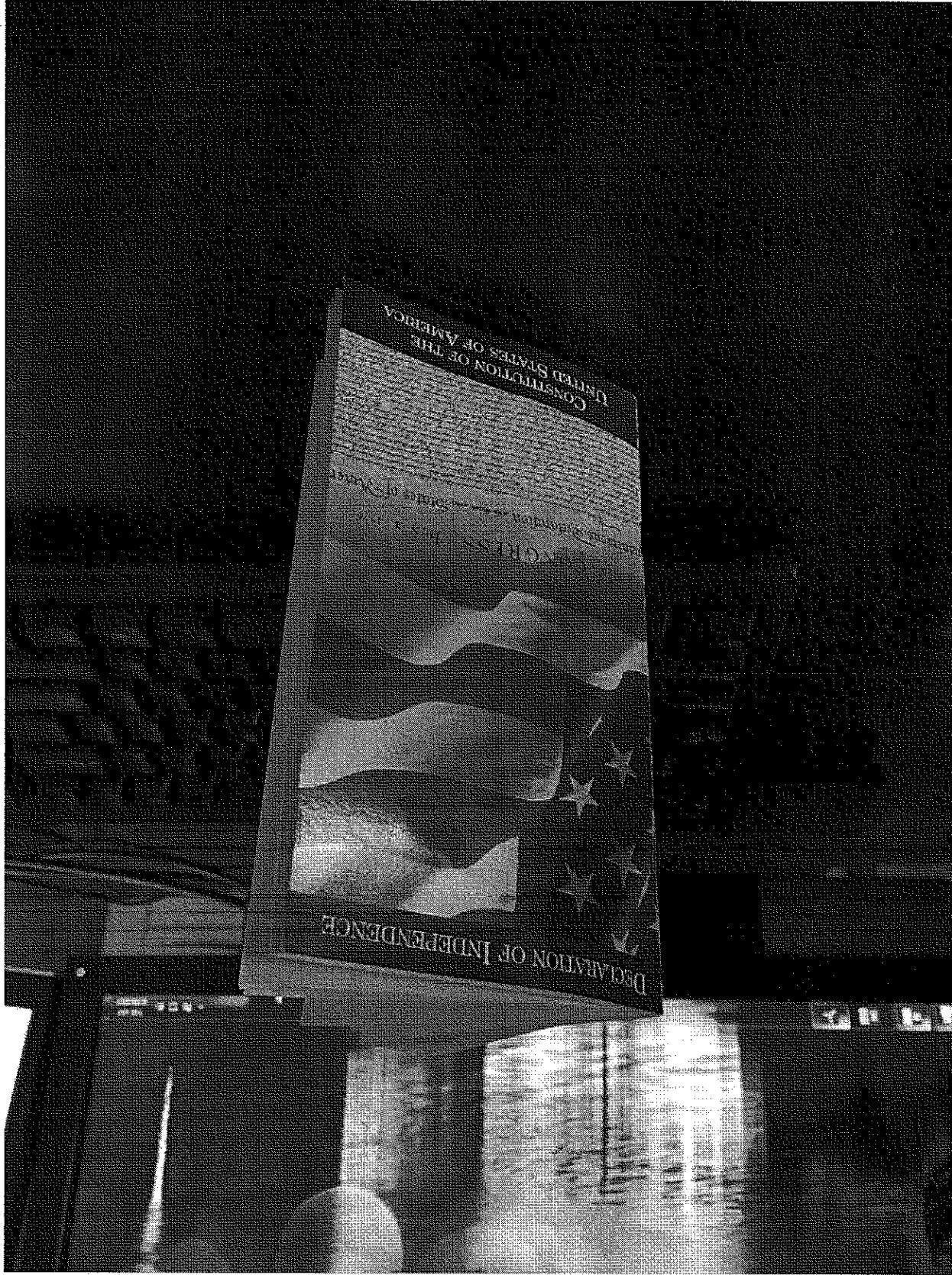
Now, I am excited to carry this same little booklet back to the Ashbrook Center to embark on a new chapter in my career. With it, I carry back a deeper understanding of the legislative process, and great experiences in politics. It still astounds me that we all have had the opportunity to help make law and improve the lives of 11.5 million people. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Ohio. These experiences will all help me with my new mission of cultivating good civics education in our country through the use of primary source documents.

Better yet, I'll also carry with this little booklet memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I'll miss the House, but I won't be far away. Feel free to stay in touch. My cell is 419-561-0073 and my personal email is brossman4913@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Brent Rossman
Legislative Aide
Representative Wes Goodman
Ohio House of Representatives
District 87

Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov
Office: 614.644.6265
Cell: 419.561.0073



From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, September 29, 2017
Attachments: 170929plan.htm; Sep29.htm; Oct2Schedule.htm; 170929dayplan.htm

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Grading The State Report Card: Experts, Policy Makers Weigh In On How Ohio Assesses K-12 Education

Governor Candidates Tout Qualifications At GOP Central Committee

Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants

Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...

High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...

Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad

Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA

Governor's Appointments

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Attorney General's Opinion

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CALENDARS

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Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)
Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)
Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due
OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 4

**Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)
Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) cigar fundraiser, Lexi's, 100 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)**

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Lane, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Event Sponsor | \$400 per Team | \$200 Tee Sponsor | \$100 per Golfer to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) family picnic, Warren County Armco Park, 1223 OH-741, Lebanon, 1 p.m.

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Tuesday, October 10

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Niraj Antani)

Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) and Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Rezabek and/or Manning for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus), Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Kevin Bacon or The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) and Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of Matt Dolan Or Citizens for Hottinger)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Team West)

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Steve Huffman for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor D, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Friends of Ron Young)

Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Former Speaker Bill Batchelder. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Tim Ginter for State Representative)